

"Astonishing!" —BRYAN KONIETZKO, AVATAR: THE LAST AIRBENDER



# THE NAMELESS CITY

FAITH ERIN HICKS  
COLOR BY JORDIE BELLAIRE





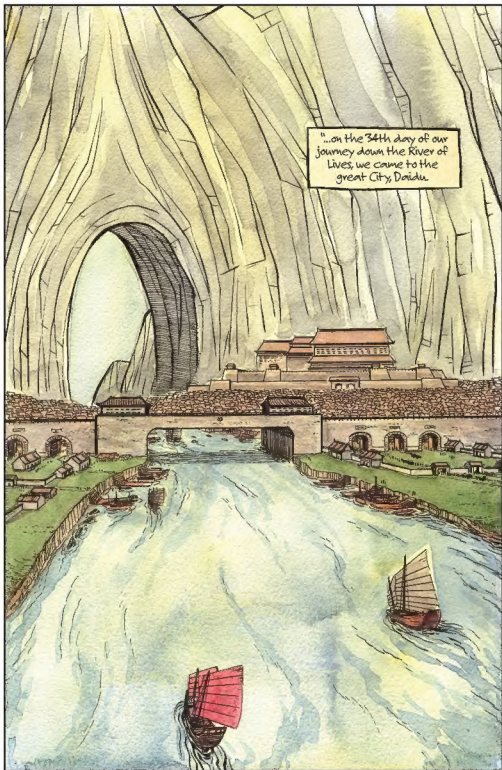
# THE NAMELESS CITY







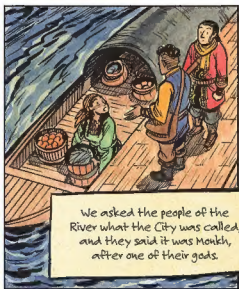
"...on the 34th day of our journey down the River of Lives, we came to the great City, Daidu.



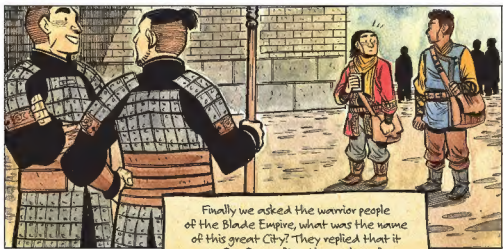
But something was amiss, for the City was not called Daidu by those we spoke to at its gates.



We asked the horse people of the Eastern Plain what the name of the City was, and they replied that it was Yanjing, after their greatest general, long dead.



We asked the people of the River what the City was called, and they said it was Monk, after one of their gods.



Finally we asked the warrior people of the Blade Empire, what was the name of this great City? They replied that it was DanDao, after themselves, for they had conquered it.

Then we asked the children who lived in the streets of the City to give us its name, and they laughed at our foolishness.

But as visitors, how could we know that it is only outsiders who name the City?



The City is named over and over, and no conquerors can name it for long.






We move on in our  
journey down the great  
River of Lives, and behind  
us we leave the City of a  
thousand names...

...the City of no name...







The Nameless City.



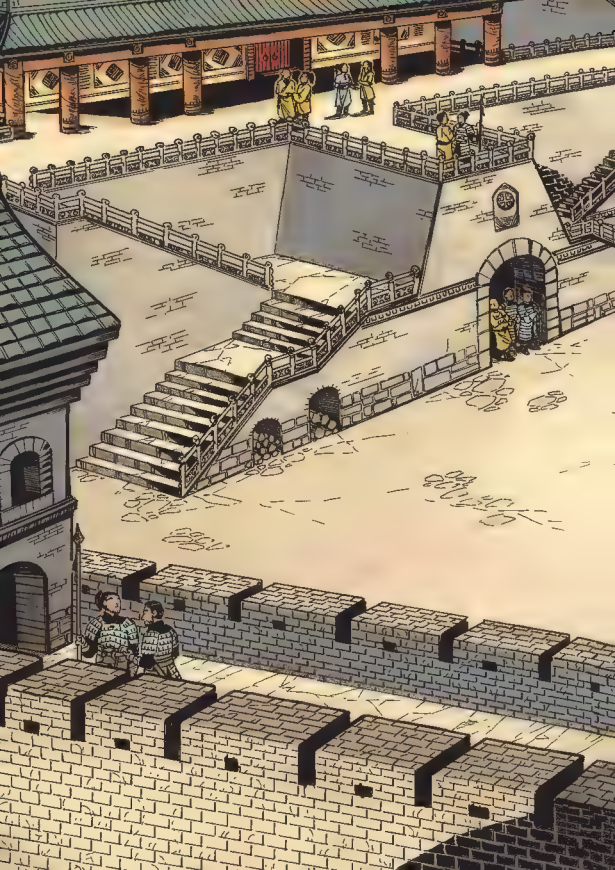
# THE NAMELESS CITY

FAITH ERIN HICKS

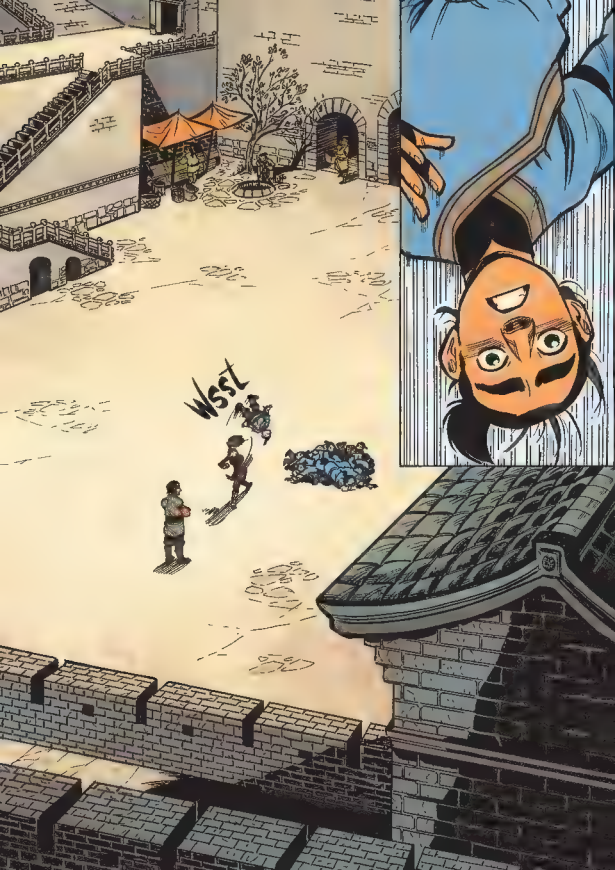
COLOR BY JORDIE BELLAIRE

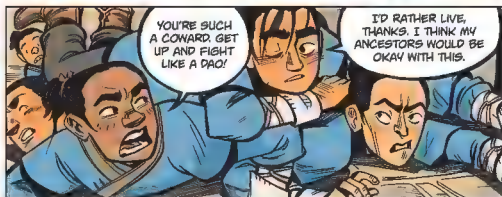


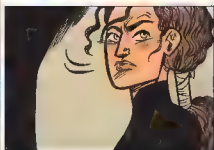
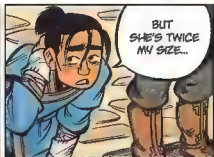
First Second  
NEW YORK









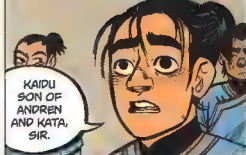




WHAT'S  
YOUR NAME?

Kaidu,  
sir!

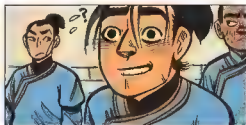
Kaidu  
what?



Kaidu  
son of  
Andren  
and Kata,  
sir.



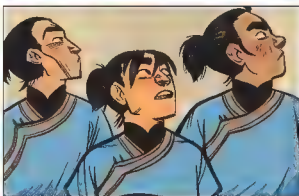
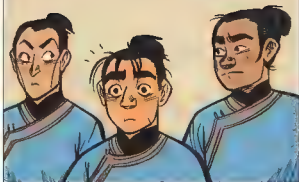
I KNOW  
ANDREN.



THIS IS  
YOUR FIRST DAY  
IN THE CITY OF  
DANDAO.

YOU WILL  
FIND LIFE HERE VERY  
DIFFERENT FROM THE  
DAO HOMELANDS.

BEYOND  
THESE WALLS IS A  
CITY OF GREAT WEALTH,  
A PLACE THROUGH WHICH  
ALL COMMERCE PASSES.  
WHOEVER HAS THE CITY  
CONTROLS THE FLOW OF  
WEALTH THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD.



THIRTY  
YEARS AGO, MY  
FATHER, THE GENERAL  
OF ALL BLADES, LED AN  
INVASION ARMY AND  
TOOK THE CITY FOR  
HIS PEOPLE.



FIVE YEARS  
AFTER THE  
INVASION, I WAS  
BORN IN THE CITY.  
THE FIRST DAO  
CHILD BORN  
HERE.

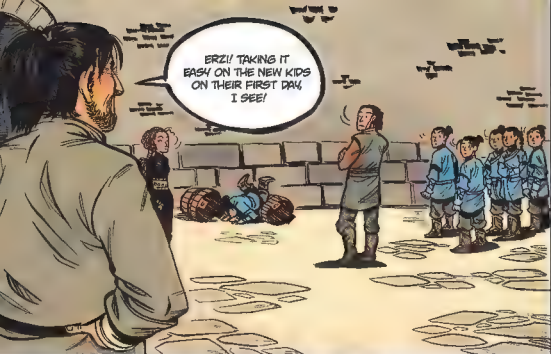
MY FATHER  
NAMED ME ERZI,  
A SON OF  
THE CITY.











ERZ!! TAKING IT  
EASY ON THE NEW KIDS  
ON THEIR FIRST DAY,  
I SEE!

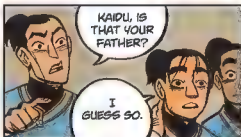


SO GOOD OF  
YOU TO DROP  
BY, GENERAL  
ANDREN. STAY  
A WHILE. YOU  
MIGHT LEARN  
SOMETHING.



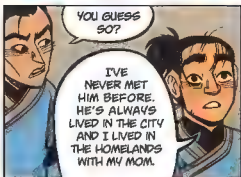
I'M SURE  
I WOULD!

YOU'LL  
TURN THESE  
BRIGHT-EYED  
YOUNGSTERS  
INTO TRUE DAO  
WARRIORS IN  
NO TIME.



KAILU, IS  
THAT YOUR  
FATHER?

I  
GUESS SO.



YOU GUESS  
SO?

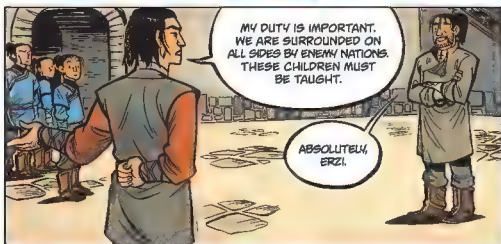
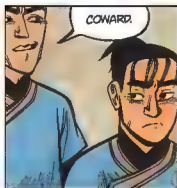
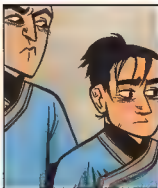
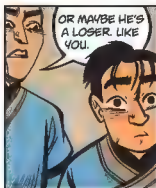
I'VE  
NEVER MET  
HIM BEFORE.  
HE'S ALWAYS  
LIVED IN THE CITY  
AND I LIVED IN  
THE HOMELANDS  
WITH MY MOM.

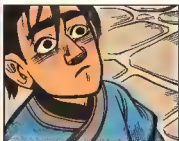
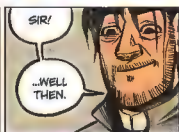
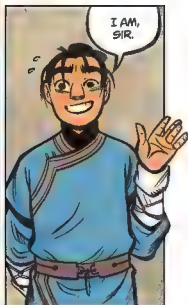


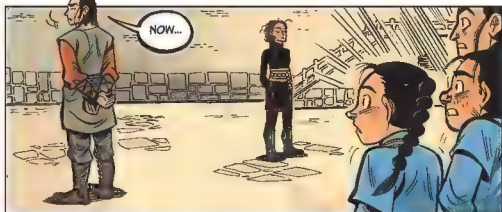
WHY'S HE  
DRESSED LIKE  
THAT? ISN'T HE  
A GENERAL?

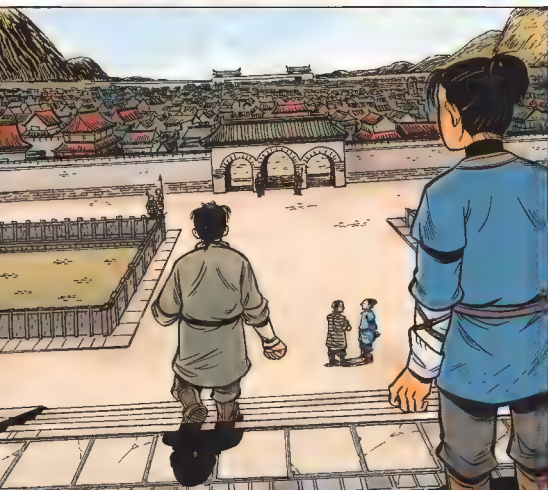
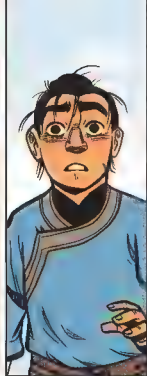
MAYBE  
PEOPLE DRESS  
DIFFERENTLY  
IN THE CITY.

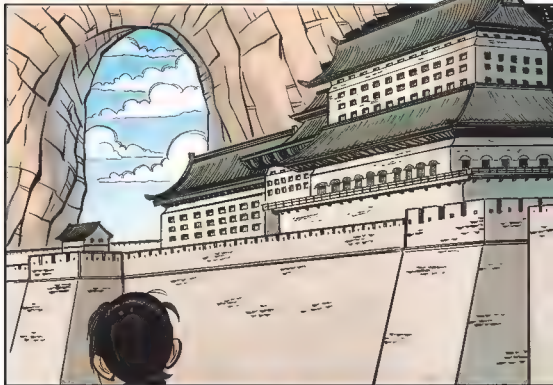
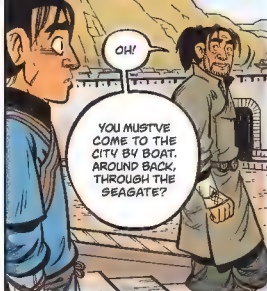


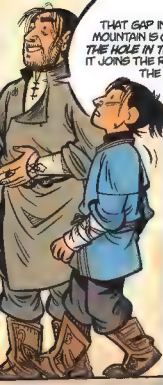












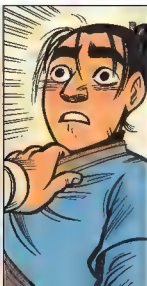
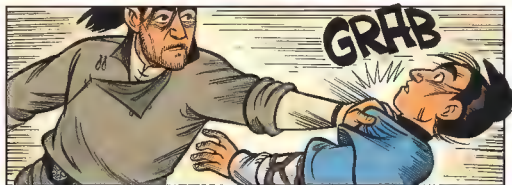
THAT GAP IN THE MOUNTAIN IS CALLED THE HOLE IN THE SKY. IT JOINS THE RIVER TO THE OCEAN.



THE TRULY IMPRESSIVE THING ABOUT THAT PASSAGE? NOT A NATURAL FORMATION! SOMEONE LONG AGO ACTUALLY DUG IT OUT—

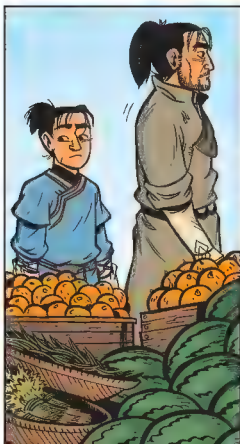
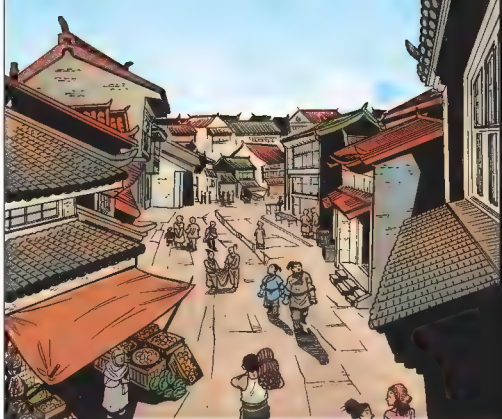



WHOA, HEY NOW!




WELCOME TO THE NAMELESS CITY, SON.







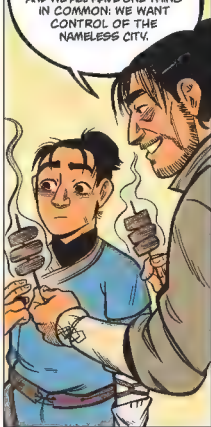
ERZI SET THAT GIRL  
OF HIS ON YOU? THAT  
BOY TAKES THINGS  
TOO SERIOUSLY.



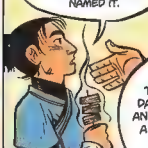
IF IT WAS  
UP TO HIM, WE'D BE  
MOBILIZED FOR WAR  
EVERY WAKING  
MOMENT.



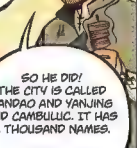
BUT...  
ISN'T THE CITY  
SURROUNDED BY  
DAO ENEMIES?




YES, IT IS. THE DAO  
ARE THE SMALLEST OF  
THE THREE GREAT NATIONS,  
AND WE ALL HAVE ONE THING  
IN COMMON: WE WANT  
CONTROL OF THE  
NAMELESS CITY.



WHY ARE YOU CALLING  
IT THE NAMELESS CITY?  
IT'S CALLED DANDAO. THE  
GENERAL OF ALL BLADES  
NAMED IT.



SO HE DID!  
THE CITY IS CALLED  
DANDAO AND YANJING  
AND CAMBULUC. IT HAS  
A THOUSAND NAMES.



ASK TEN DIFFERENT PEOPLE  
FROM ALL THE DIFFERENT  
NATIONS WHAT THE CITY'S  
NAME IS, AND YOU'LL  
GET TEN DIFFERENT  
ANSWERS.



WHY?



WHOEVER CONQUERS  
THE CITY ALWAYS RENAMES IT. AND  
SINCE THE CITY IS SO IMPORTANT-IT'S THE  
ONLY PASSAGE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS  
TO THE OCEAN ON THE OTHER SIDE-IT  
GETS CONQUERED A LOT.



THAT'S WHY  
ERZI'S SETTING  
HIS BODYGUARD  
ON YOU KIDS, SO  
THAT YOU'LL  
TOUGHEN UP-

OH, THERE  
SHE IS!

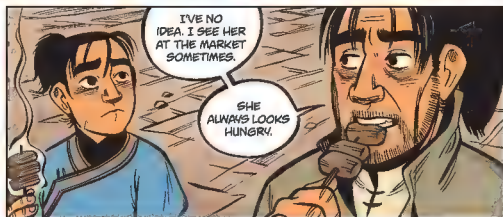


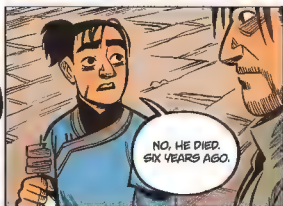
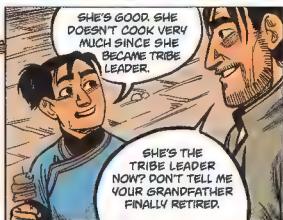
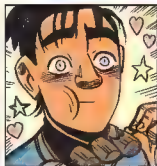
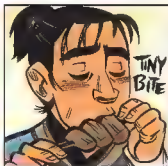
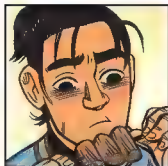
HOI, KIDDO!  
IT'S BEEN  
A WHILE.

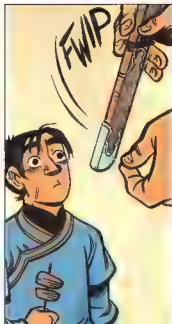
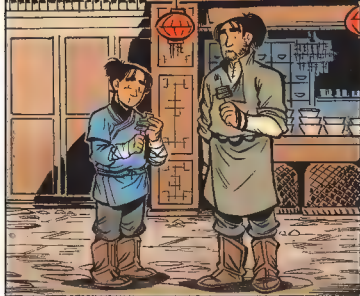


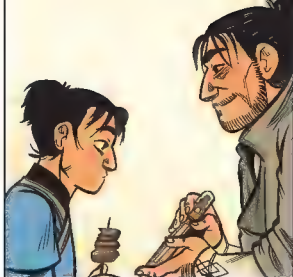
HUNGRY? I  
CAN GRAB YOU ONE,  
IF YOU'D LIKE.

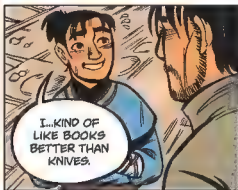




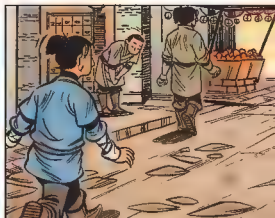
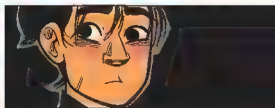
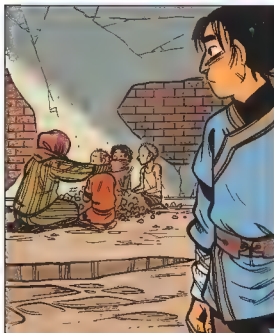
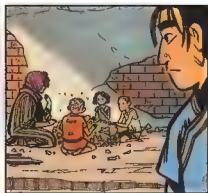
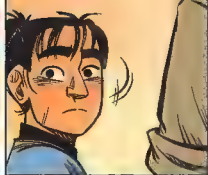


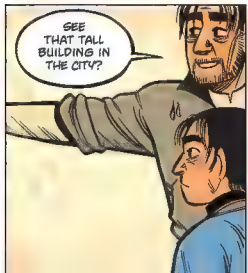
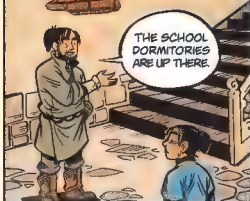




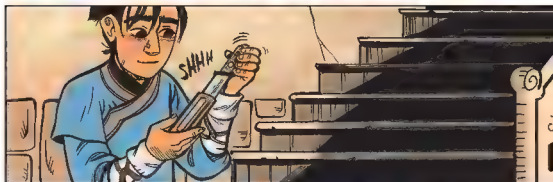
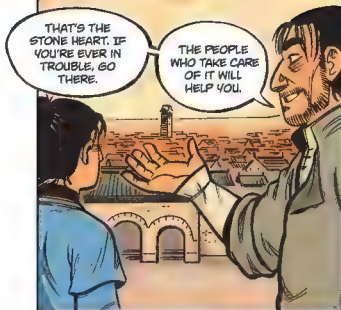






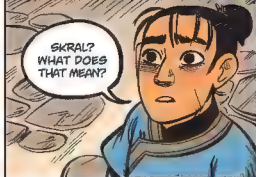








HOW WAS YOUR  
FIELD TRIP? DID YOU  
ENJOY SLACKING OFF  
WHILE THE REST OF US  
GOT BEATEN UP BY  
THAT SKRAL GIRL?



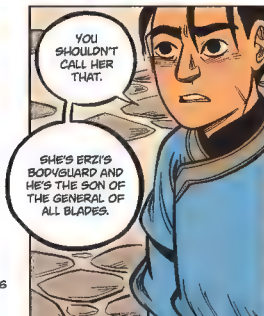
SKRAL?  
WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?



YOU REALLY ARE  
A LOSER. SKRAL IS  
ANYONE FOREIGN.  
ANYONE NOT  
DAO.



ANYONE  
NOT A *PERSON*.



YOU  
SHOULDN'T  
CALL HER  
THAT.

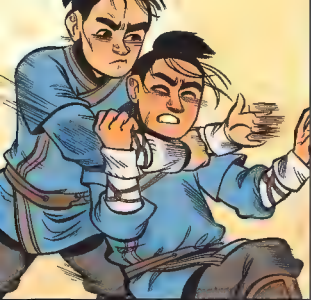
SHE'S ERZI'S  
BODYGUARD AND  
HE'S THE SON OF  
THE GENERAL OF  
ALL BLADES.

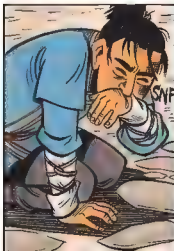


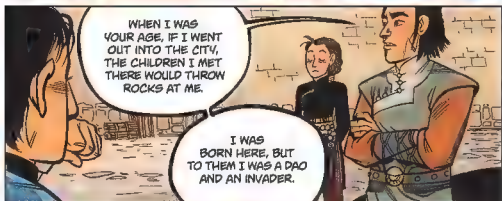
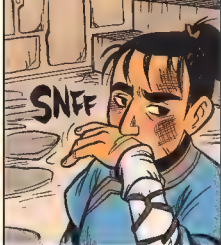
I'LL CALL  
CITY SCUM  
WHAT IT IS.

IT'S PATHETIC,  
THE PRINCE OF  
THE DAO EMPIRE  
ASSOCIATING  
WITH TRASH.







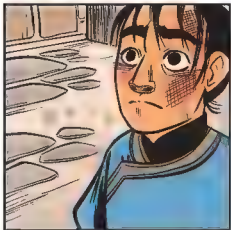






MAYBE IT WILL ALWAYS BE THIS WAY FOR ME.

BUT WHEN I BECOME THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES AFTER MY FATHER, IT WILL BE THE FIRST TIME THE CITY IS RULED BY SOMEONE WHO WAS BORN HERE.



I HEARD YOU DEFEND MURA. IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

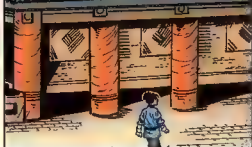
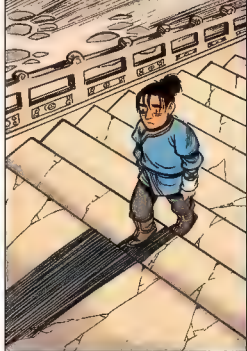
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH SMALL-MINDED PEOPLE WHO WOULD LOOK DOWN ON SOMEONE NOT LIKE THEM.

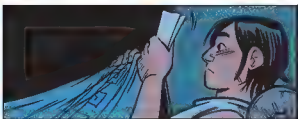


UM...THANK YOU FOR THE ADVICE, SIR.



THANK ME BY PUTTING YOUR HEART INTO YOUR SCHOOLING, KAIJU. WE START TOMORROW AT 7AM SHARP.







KAIDU,

YOU ARE THIRTEEN YEARS OLD  
NOW, ALMOST A GROWN-UP.

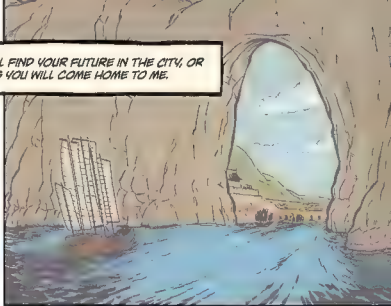
AT FIRST I WAS  
SAD WHEN YOU  
TOLD ME YOU  
WANTED TO GO  
TO THE CITY OF  
DANDAO TO MEET  
YOUR FATHER.



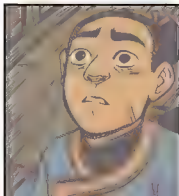
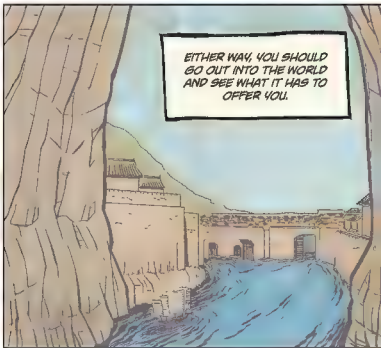
I WILL MISS YOU  
VERY MUCH, BUT  
YOU SHOULD GO OUT  
IN THE WORLD AND FIND  
YOUR PLACE. YOUR  
FATHER'S PLACE IS IN  
THE CITY AMONG THE  
MANY PEOPLE WHO LIVE  
THERE, AND MINE IS  
HERE IN THE HOMELANDS,  
LEADING OUR TRIBE.



MAYBE YOU WILL FIND YOUR FUTURE IN THE CITY, OR  
PERHAPS YOU WILL COME HOME TO ME.



EITHER WAY, YOU SHOULD  
GO OUT INTO THE WORLD  
AND SEE WHAT IT HAS TO  
OFFER YOU.



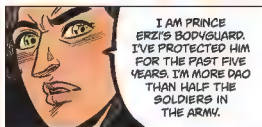
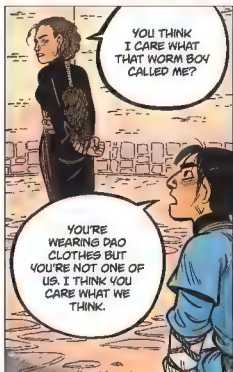
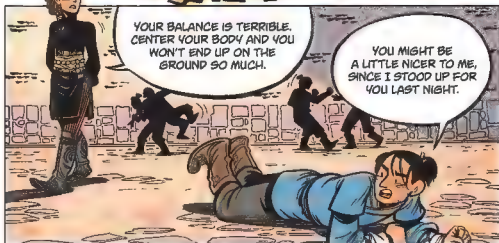
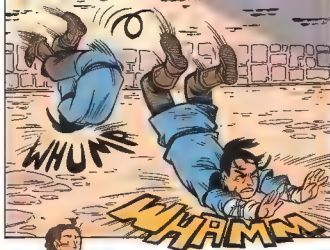
LOVE,  
MOM.

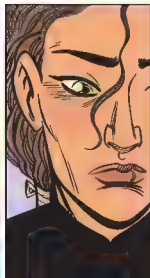
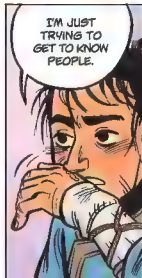
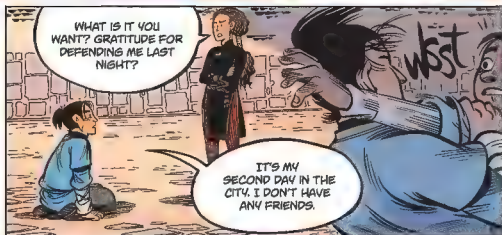
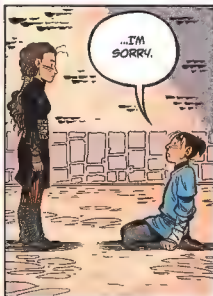
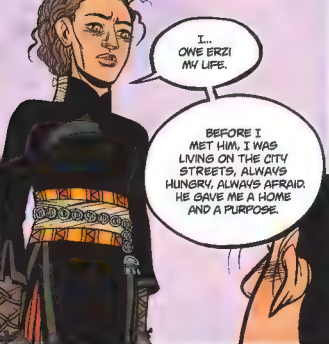


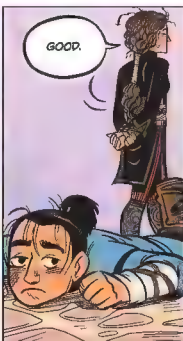
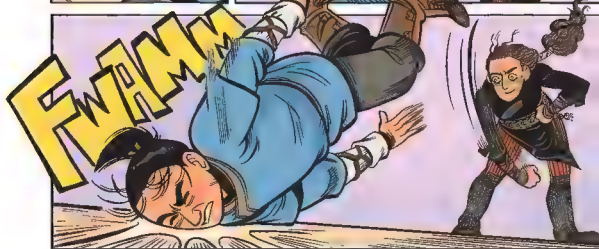
# DAY 2

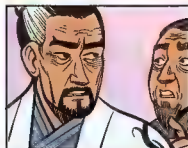


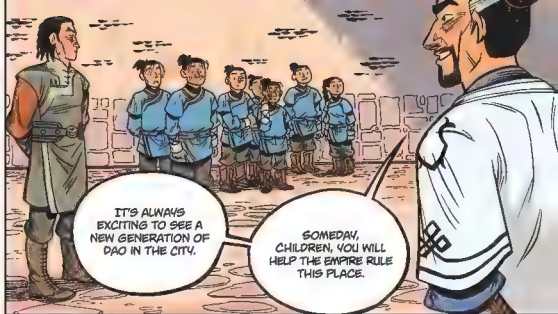






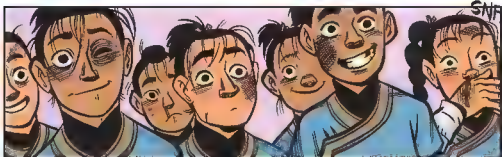






IT'S ALWAYS  
EXCITING TO SEE A  
NEW GENERATION OF  
DAO IN THE CITY.

SOMEDAY,  
CHILDREN, YOU WILL  
HELP THE EMPIRE RULE  
THIS PLACE.



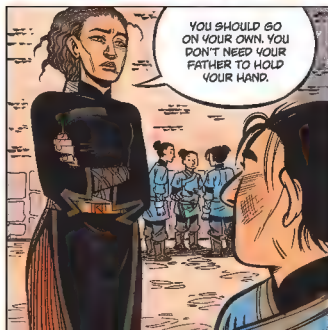
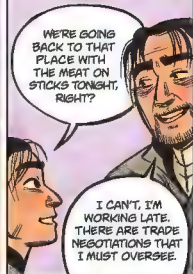
THEY SEEM...  
PROMISING.

ER,  
YES.

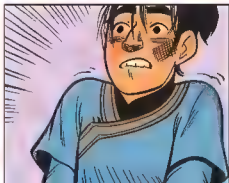
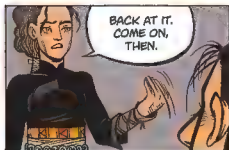
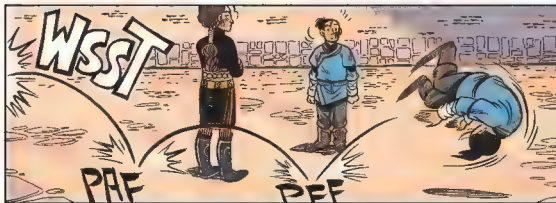
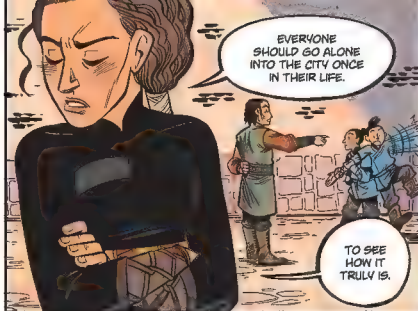
VERY  
PROMISING.

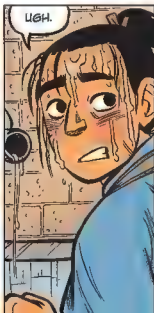
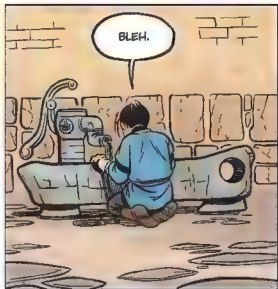
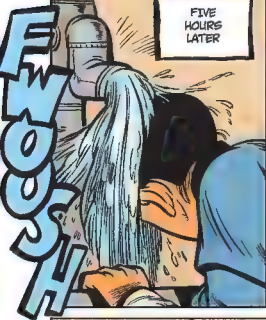


I KNOW YOU WILL  
MAKE THE BEST SOLDIERS  
POSSIBLE OUT OF THESE  
CHILDREN, ERZI.

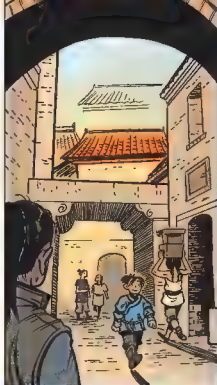


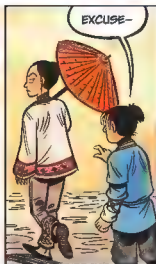
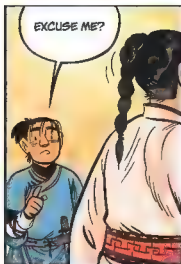
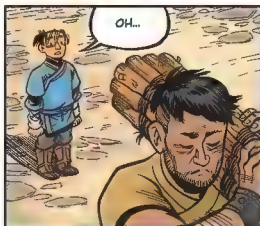






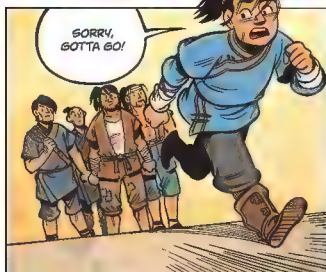
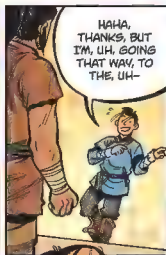


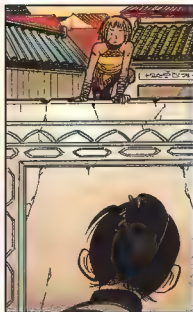
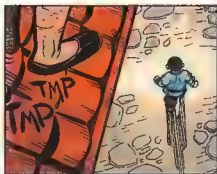


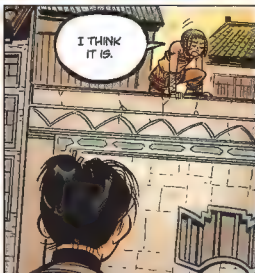


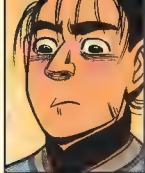
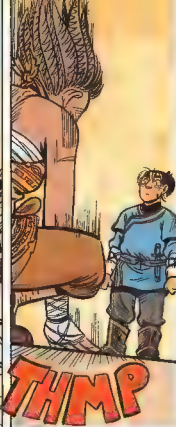


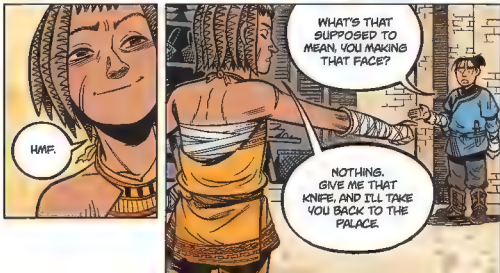
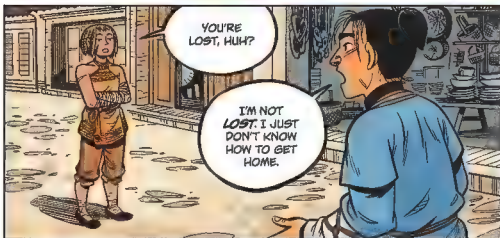
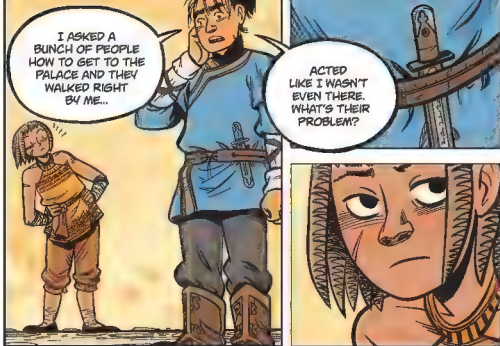


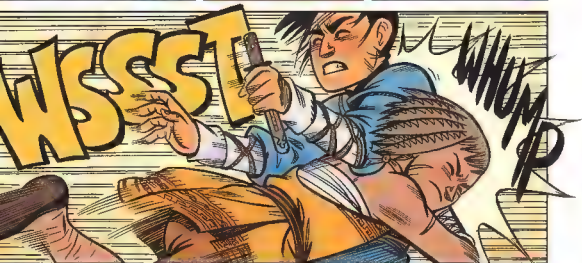
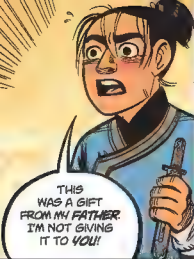




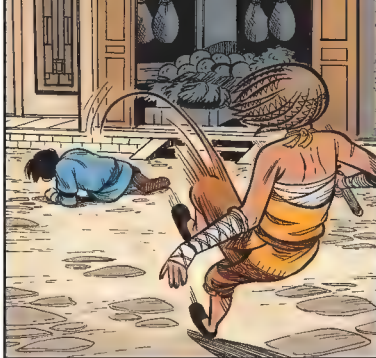




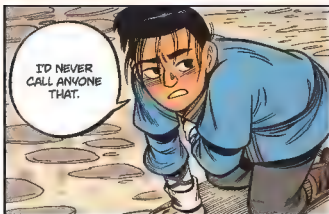
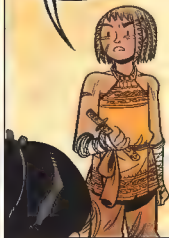








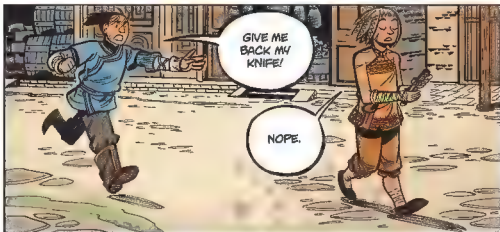
BECAUSE  
YOU'RE A DAO  
AND I'M JUST  
A SKRAL GIRL,  
RIGHT?



I'D NEVER  
CALL ANYONE  
THAT.

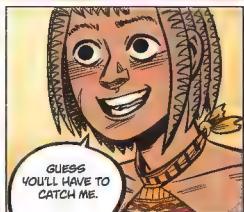
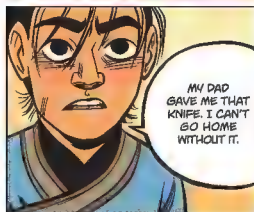
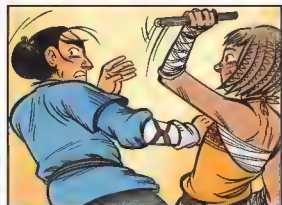


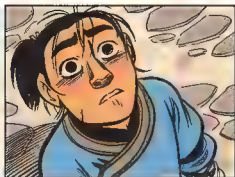
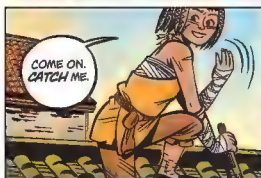
SURE YOU  
WOULDN'T. YOU'RE  
THE ONE DAO IN  
ALL THE EMPIRE  
WHO THINKS I'M  
A PERSON.

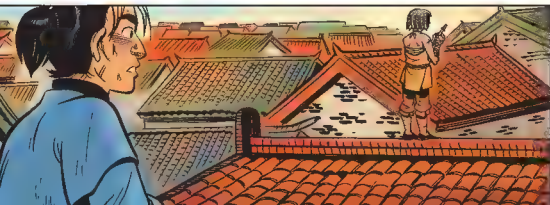


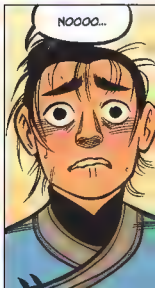
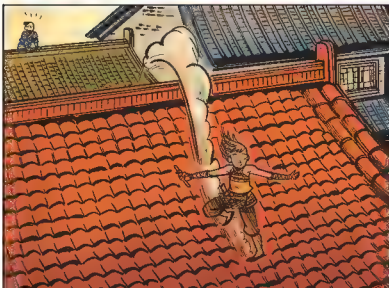
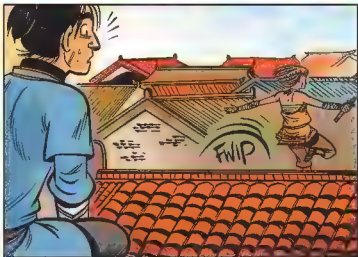
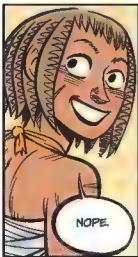
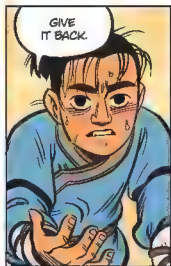
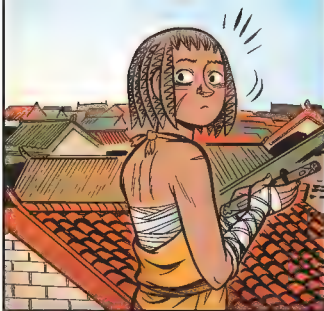
GIVE ME  
BACK MY  
KNIFE!

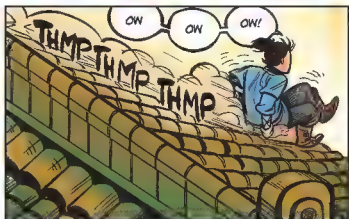
NOPE.



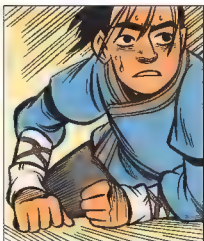
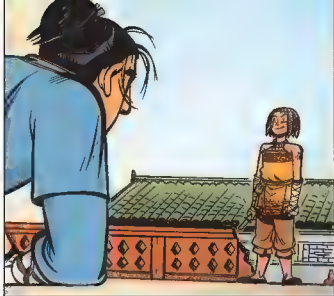






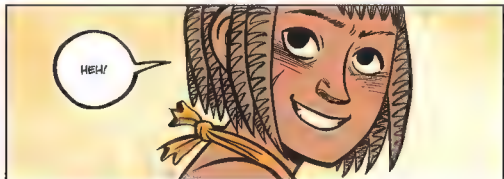


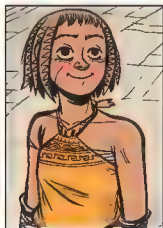
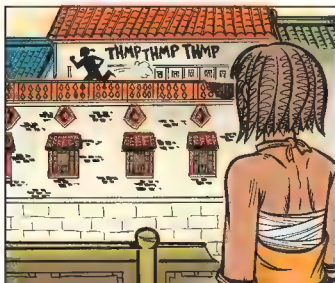
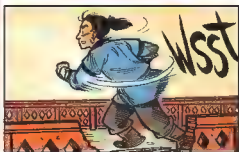
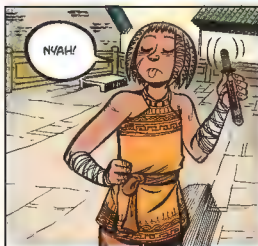
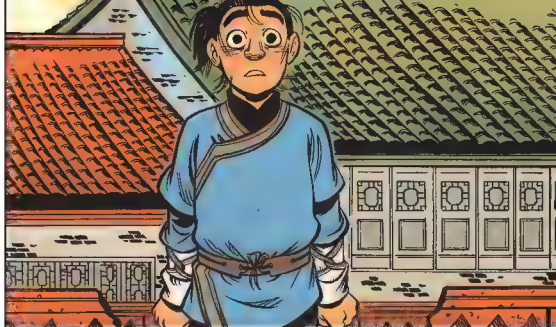


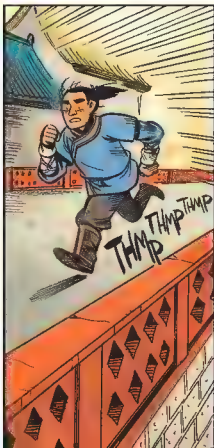
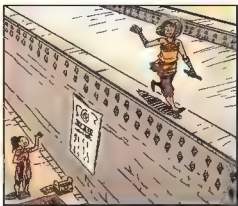
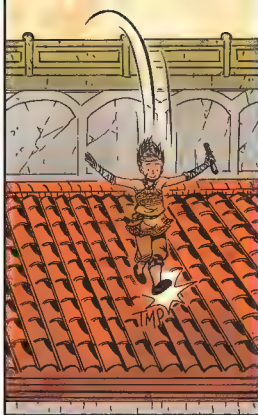




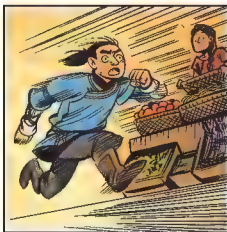
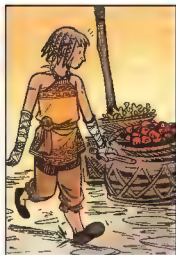


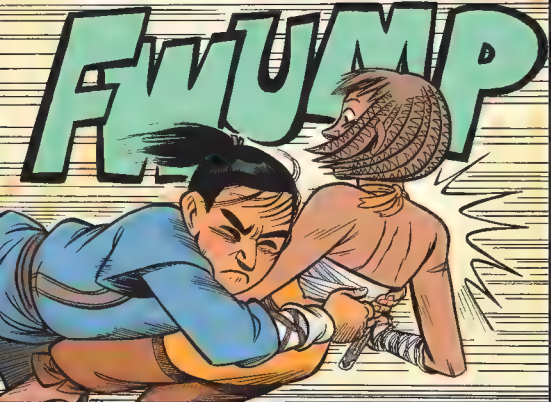


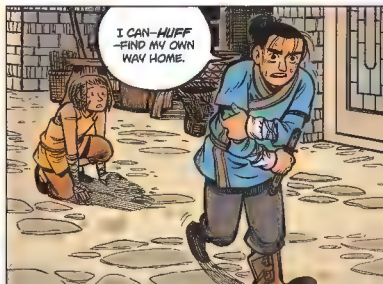
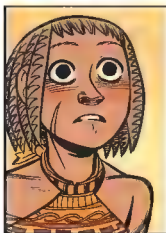


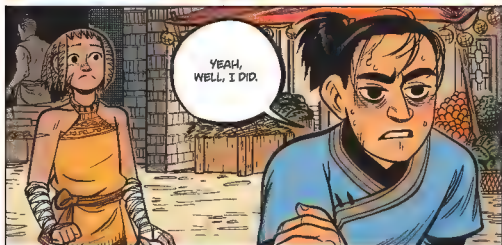
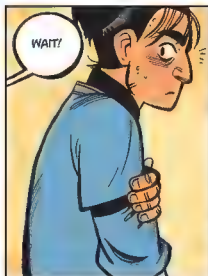


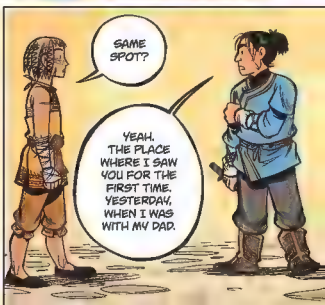
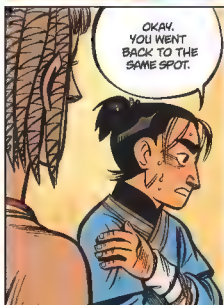
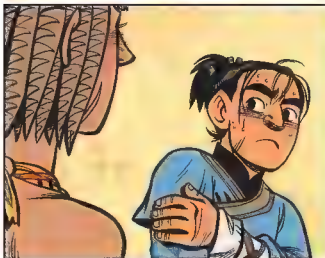
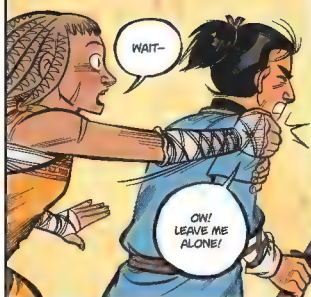


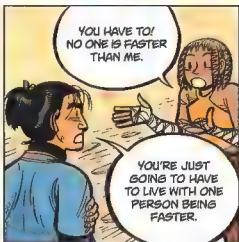
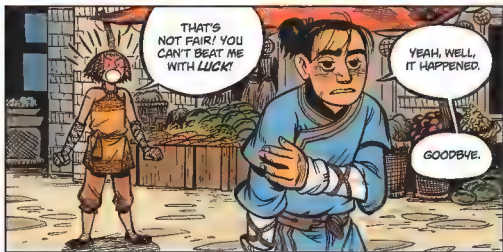
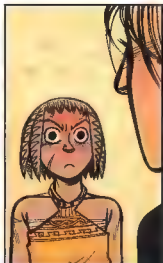




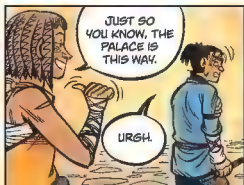
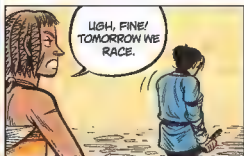
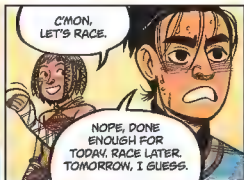
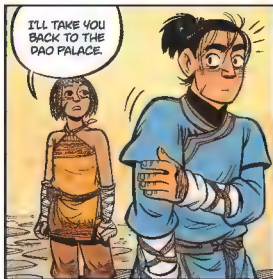


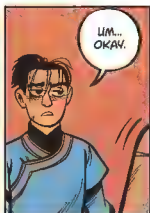
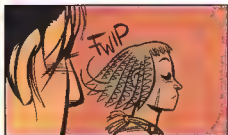
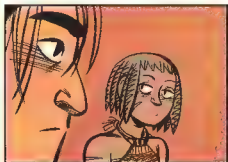


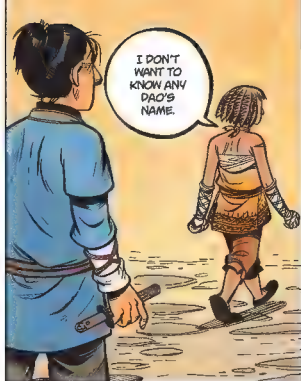


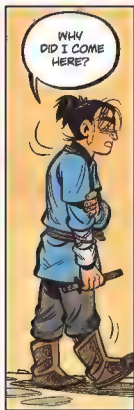
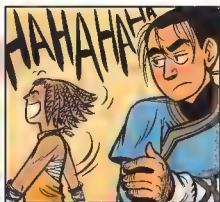
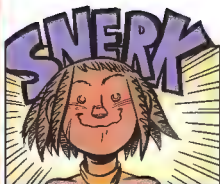






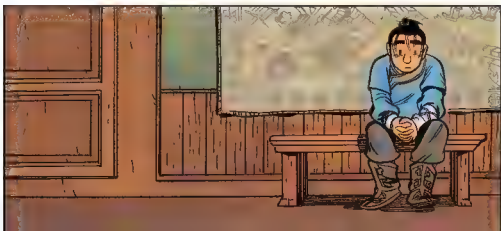


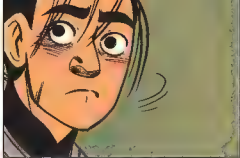




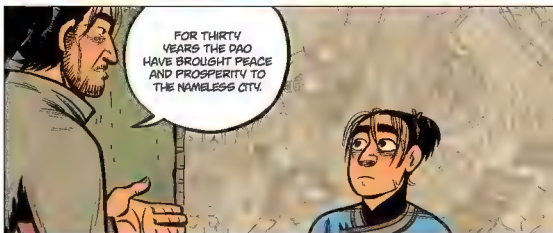


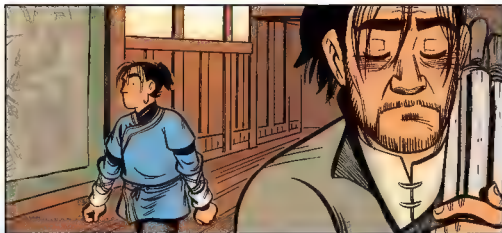
TEN MINUTES LATER...







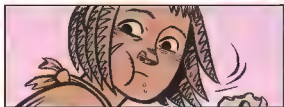
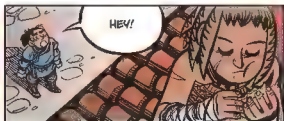




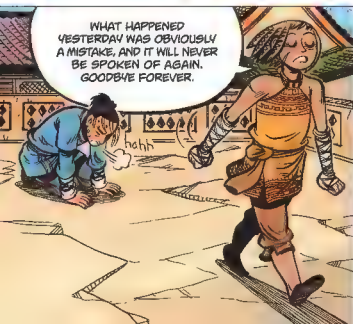
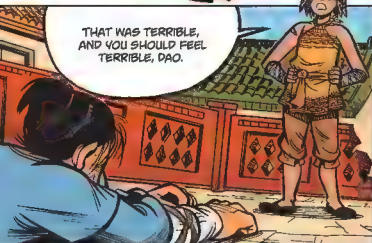
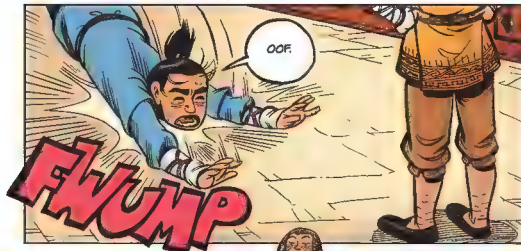


# DAY 3

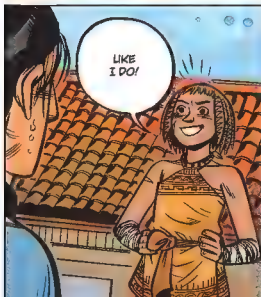
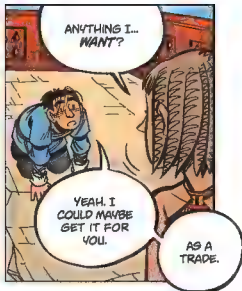


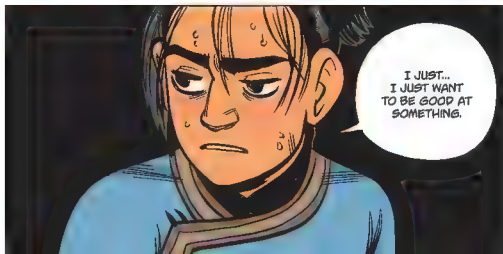
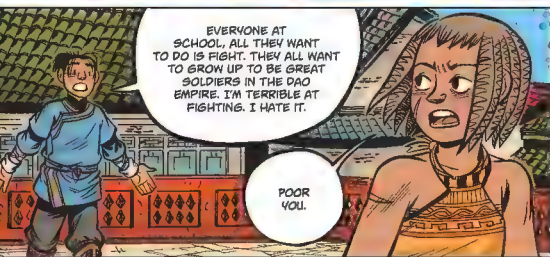
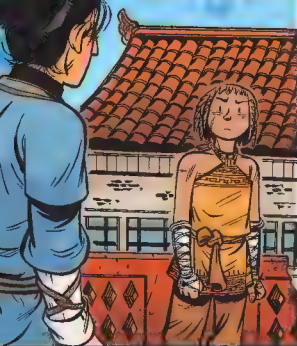


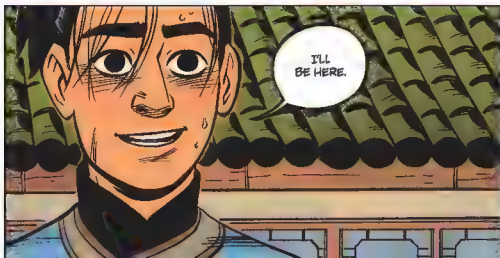
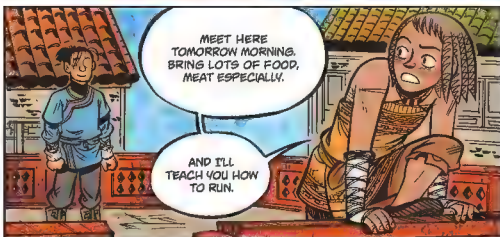
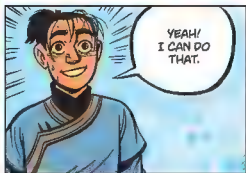
TEN MINUTES LATER...

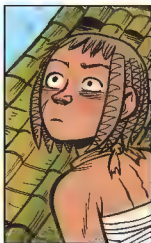
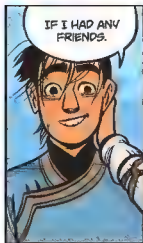
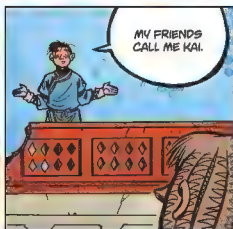
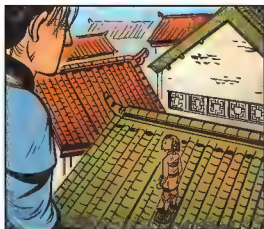
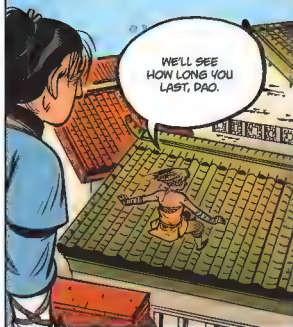






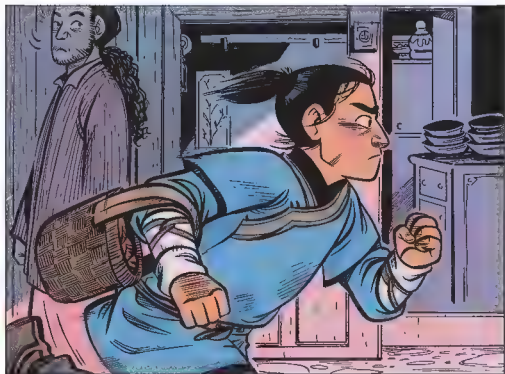




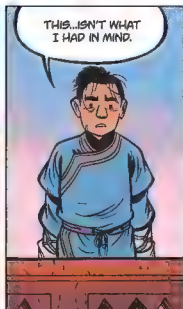
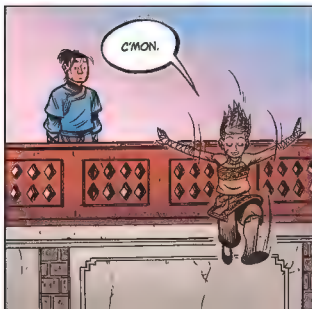


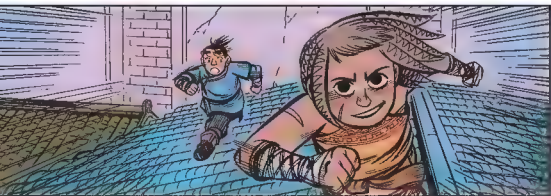


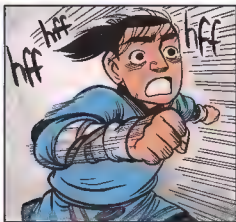
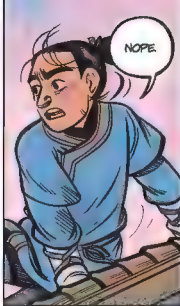
# DAY 4



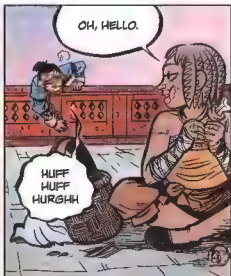
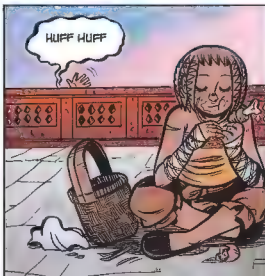


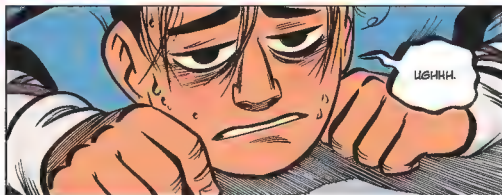
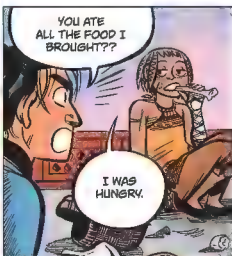




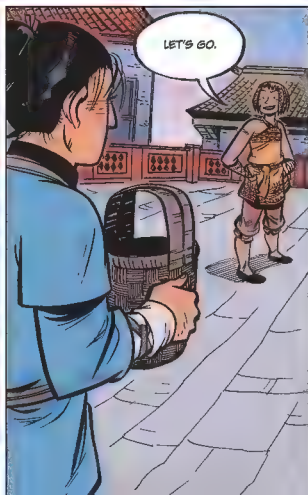


MANY MINUTES LATER...

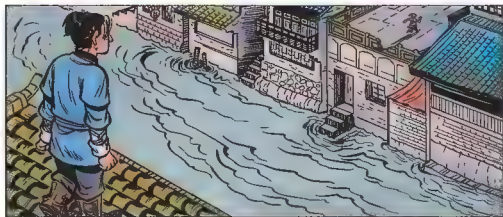
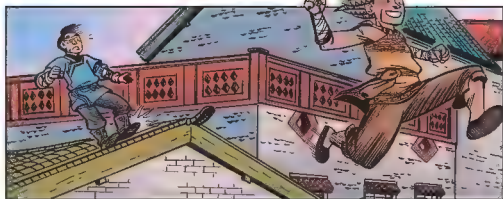
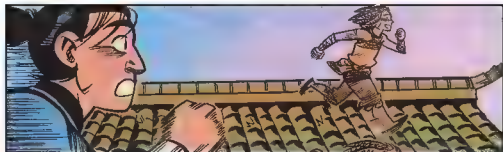




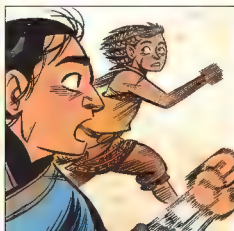
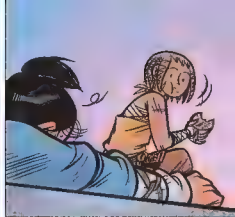
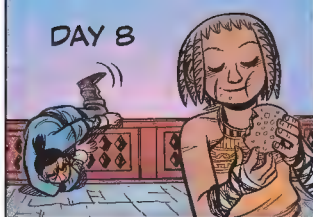
DAY 5

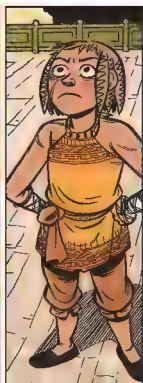
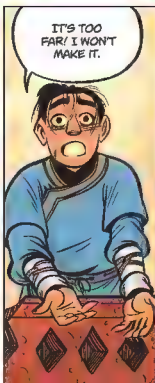
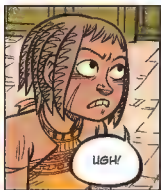
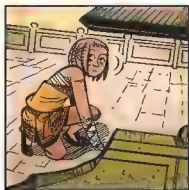


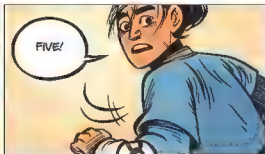
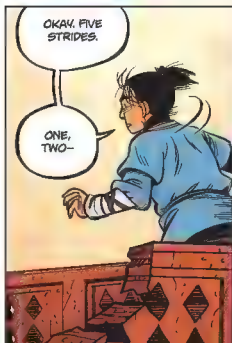
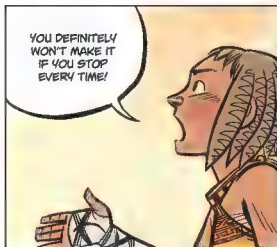
# DAY 6



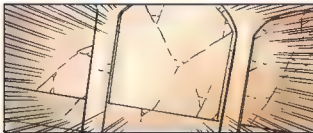
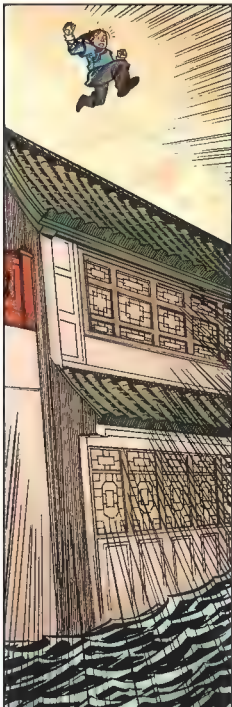






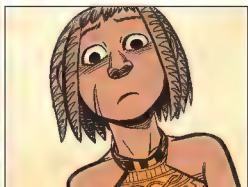
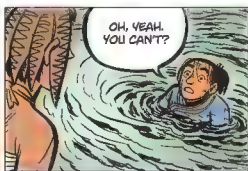
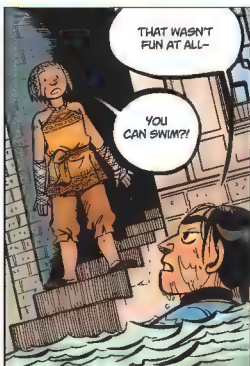
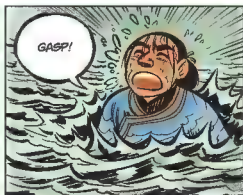
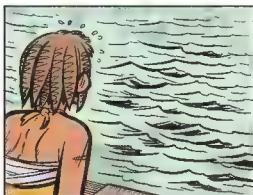
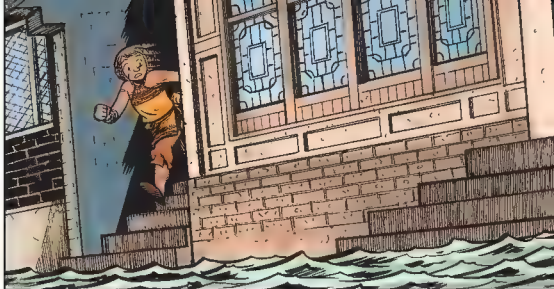


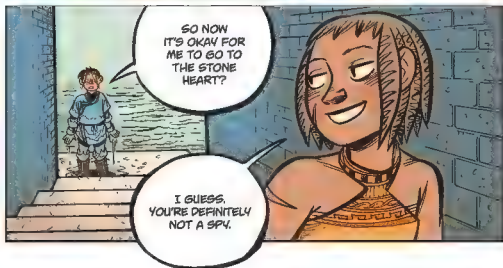
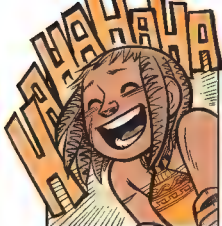


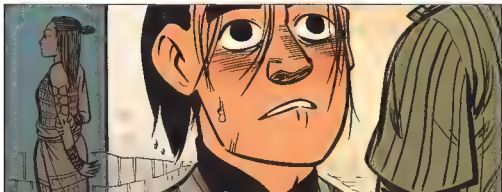
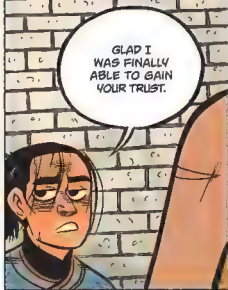


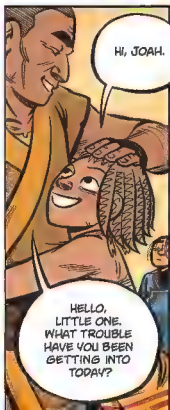






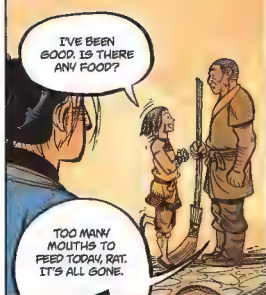


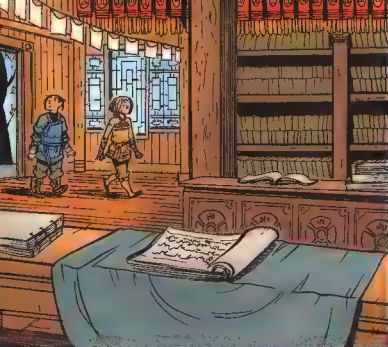




HI, JOAH.

HELLO,  
LITTLE ONE.  
WHAT TROUBLE  
HAVE YOU BEEN  
GETTING INTO  
TODAY?





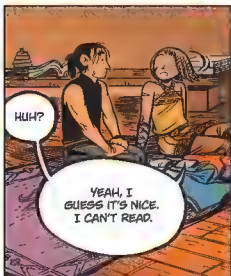
IS THIS  
WHERE YOU  
LIVE?

YEAH. THE  
MONKS LET ME  
SLEEP IN THE TOWER.  
THEY'RE NICE, ALTHOUGH  
THEY NEVER HAVE  
ENOUGH TO EAT.



LOOK AT  
ALL THE  
BOOKS...

I WISH I  
HAD SO MANY  
BOOKS.

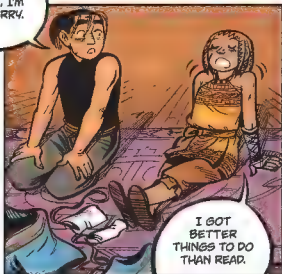


HUH?

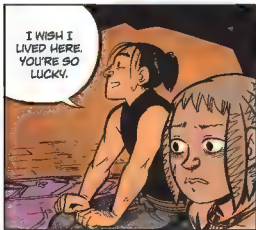
YEAH, I  
GUESS IT'S NICE.  
I CAN'T READ.



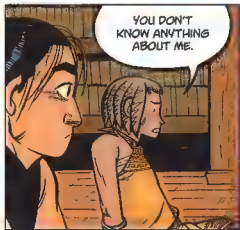
OH, I'M  
SORRY.



I WISH I  
LIVED HERE.  
YOU'RE SO  
LUCKY.

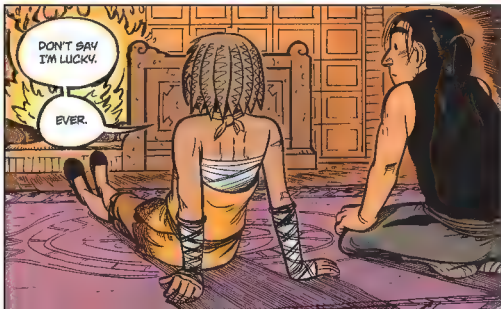


YOU DON'T  
KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT ME.



DON'T SAY  
I'M LUCKY.

EVER.

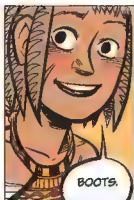
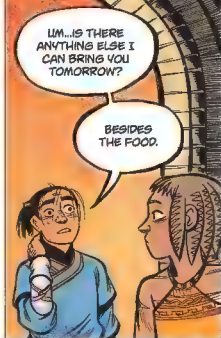


LATER



UM...IS THERE  
ANYTHING ELSE I  
CAN BRING YOU  
TOMORROW?

BESIDES  
THE FOOD.



BOOTS.



BOOTS?

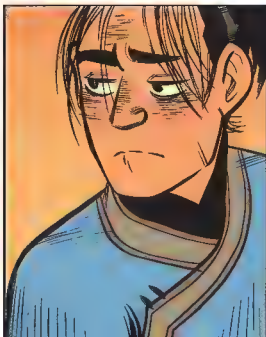
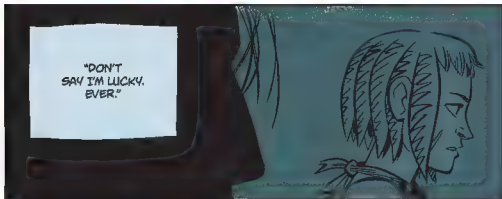
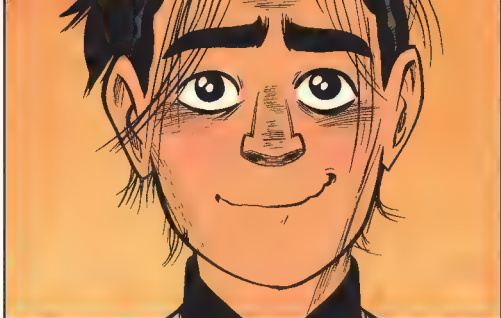
YEAH.  
LEATHER BOOTS,  
LIKE YOURS. I'VE  
NEVER HAD SHOES  
LIKE THAT.



OKAY.  
TOMORROW I'LL  
BRING YOU  
BOOTS.

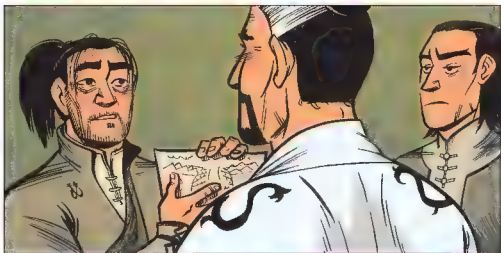
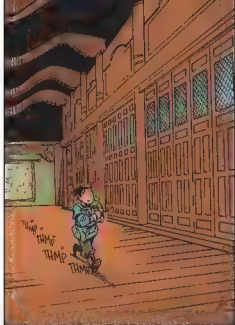


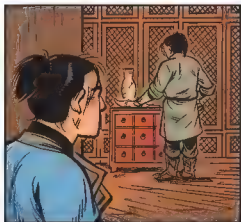
TOMORROW!



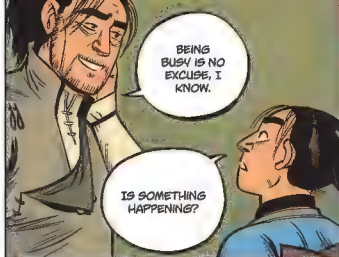
# DAY 28









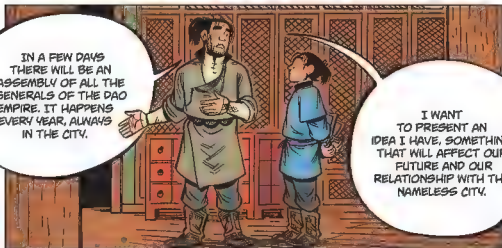


BEING  
BUSY IS NO  
EXCUSE, I  
KNOW.

IS SOMETHING  
HAPPENING?

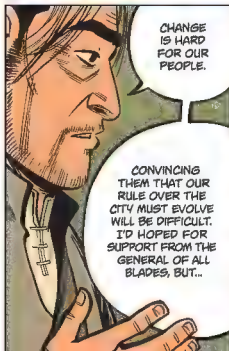


OH, JUST  
POLITICS. BORING  
STUFF.



IN A FEW DAYS  
THERE WILL BE AN  
ASSEMBLY OF ALL THE  
GENERALS OF THE DAO  
EMPIRE. IT HAPPENS  
EVERY YEAR, ALWAYS  
IN THE CITY.

I WANT  
TO PRESENT AN  
IDEA I HAVE, SOMETHING  
THAT WILL AFFECT OUR  
FUTURE AND OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE  
NAMELESS CITY.



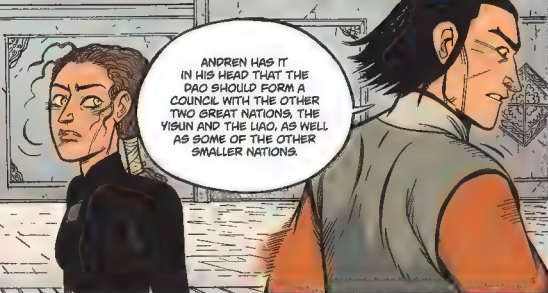
CHANGE  
IS HARD  
FOR OUR  
PEOPLE.

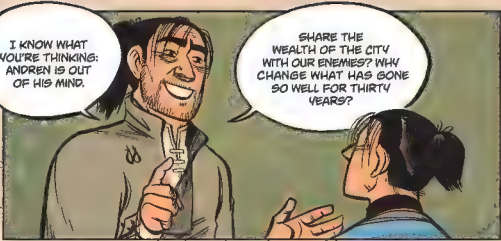
CONVINCING  
THEM THAT OUR  
RULE OVER THE  
CITY MUST EVOLVE  
WILL BE DIFFICULT.  
I'D HOPED FOR  
SUPPORT FROM THE  
GENERAL OF ALL  
BLADES, BUT...



HOW WAS  
YOUR MEETING WITH  
GENERAL ANDREN AND  
YOUR FATHER?

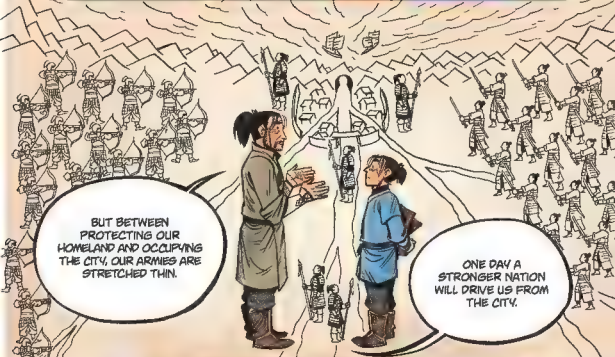
A WASTE OF TIME.  
MY FATHER IS TOO  
INDULGENT OF ANDREN  
AND HIS ABSURD  
SCHEMES.





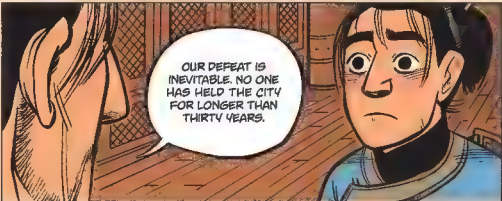
I KNOW WHAT  
YOU'RE THINKING:  
ANDREN IS OUT  
OF HIS MIND.

SHARE THE  
WEALTH OF THE CITY  
WITH OUR ENEMIES? WHY  
CHANGE WHAT HAS GONE  
SO WELL FOR THIRTY  
YEARS?

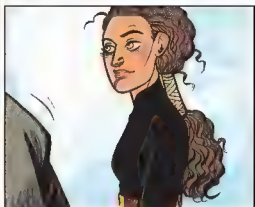
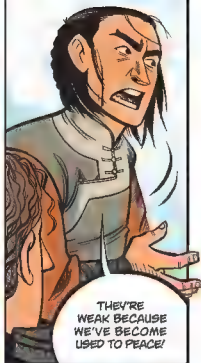
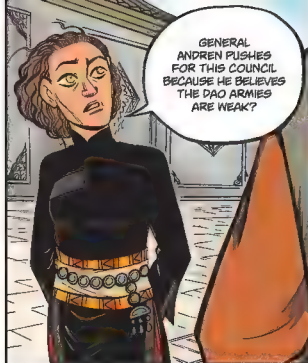


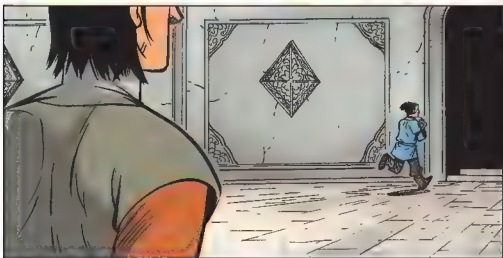
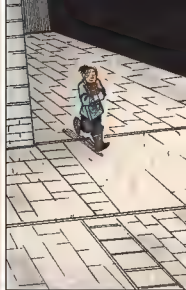
BUT BETWEEN  
PROTECTING OUR  
HOMELAND AND OCCUPYING  
THE CITY, OUR ARMIES ARE  
STRETCHED THIN.

ONE DAY A  
STRONGER NATION  
WILL DRIVE US FROM  
THE CITY.



OUR DEFEAT IS  
INEVITABLE. NO ONE  
HAS HELD THE CITY  
FOR LONGER THAN  
THIRTY YEARS.





ANDREN DOESN'T  
KNOW ANYTHING  
ABOUT THE FUTURE  
OF THE CITY.



HE WASN'T  
BORN HERE.





THESE ARE AMAZING!

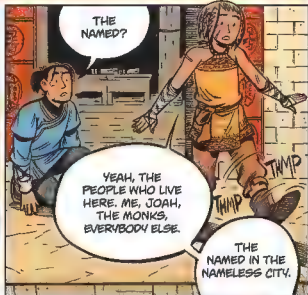
I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE THEM.

THEY FIT PERFECTLY, TOO.



UM...I WAS WONDERING. WHAT IF INSTEAD OF THE DAO RULING THE CITY, THERE WAS A...A COUNCIL OF LOTS OF DIFFERENT NATIONS AND THEY RULED THE CITY?

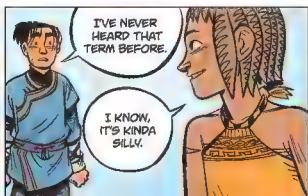
WOULD THE NAMED GET TO BE ON THE COUNCIL?



THE NAMED?

YEAH, THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE HERE. ME, JOAH, THE MONKS, EVERYBODY ELSE.

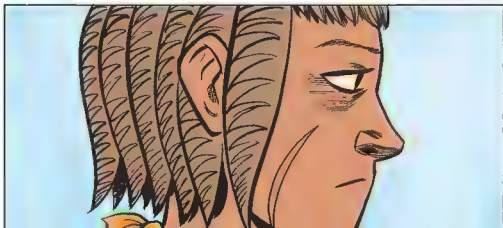
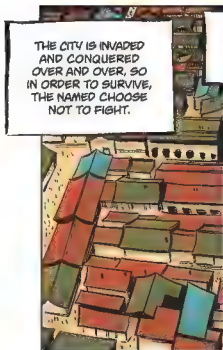
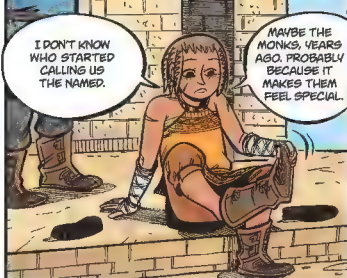
THE NAMED IN THE NAMELESS CITY.

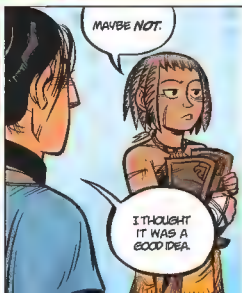
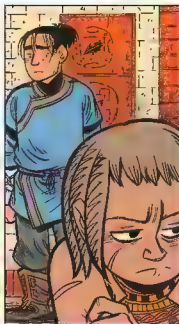
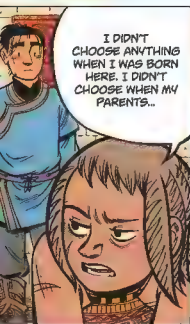



I'VE NEVER HEARD THAT TERM BEFORE.

I KNOW, IT'S KINDA SILLY.










YEAH. LOTS OF  
PEOPLE HAVE LOTS  
OF GOOD IDEAS  
ABOUT THE CITY.



RAT,  
WHAT ARE  
THOSE?



NOTHING.



THESE ARE DAO  
MILITARY BOOKS. DO  
YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD  
HAPPEN IF YOU WERE  
SEEN WITH THEM?

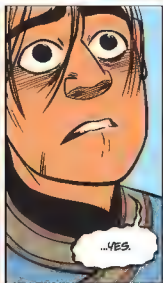


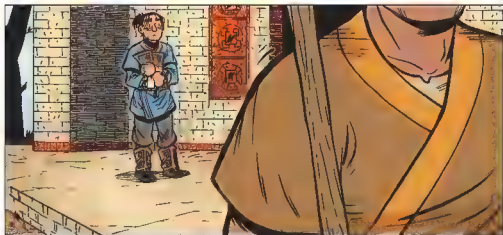
DON'T  
TELL ME WHAT  
TO DO.

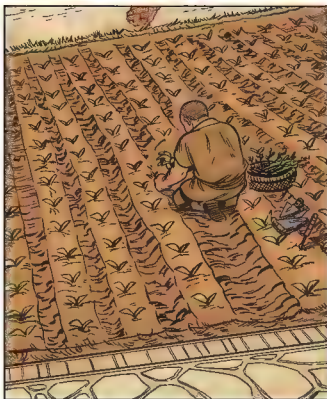
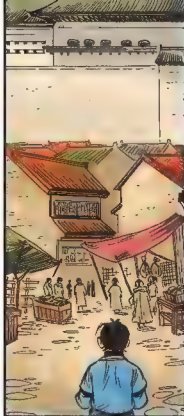


RAT—

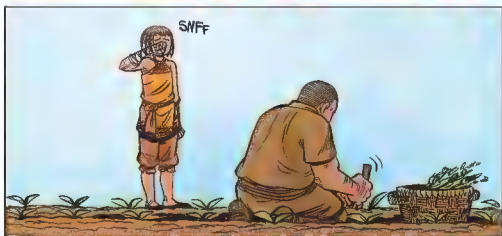
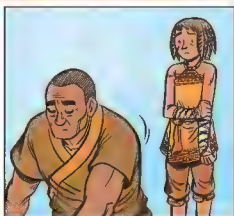
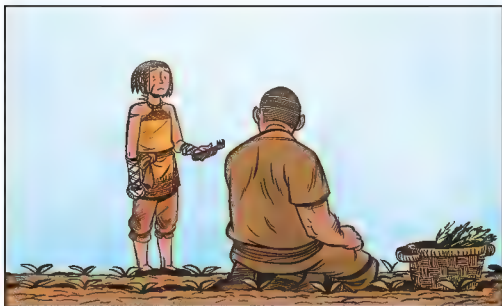
DON'T TELL  
ME WHAT TO  
DO. YOU'RE NOT  
MY PARENTS! MY  
PARENTS ARE  
DEAD!







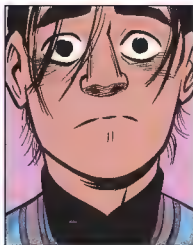
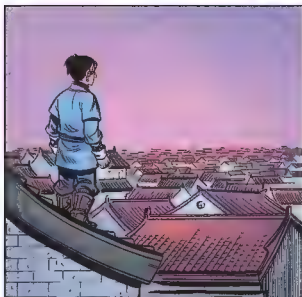
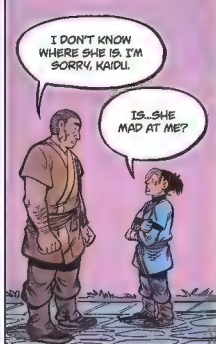


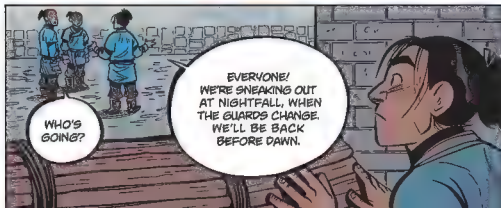


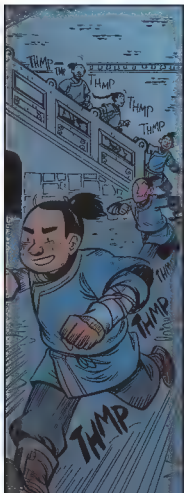
# DAY 29





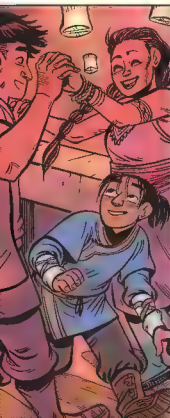


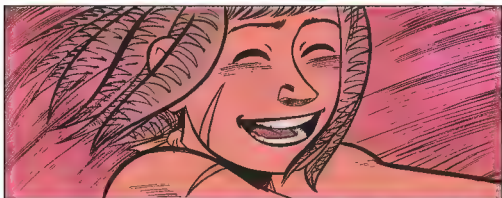
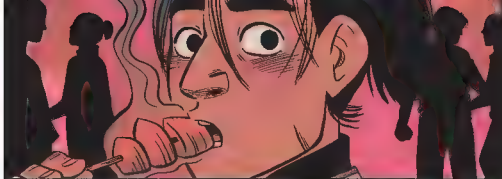




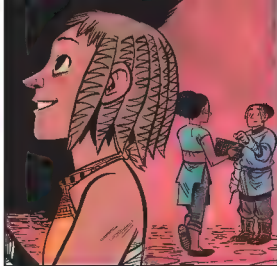




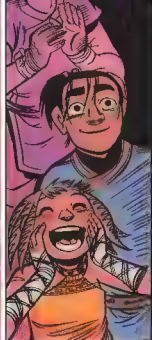




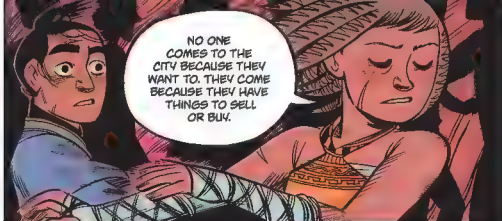




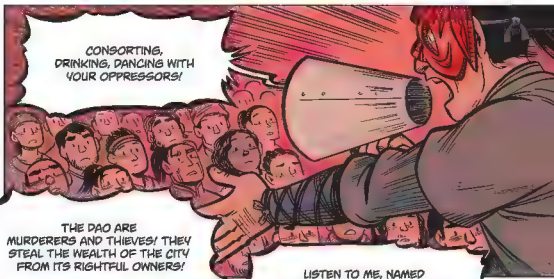






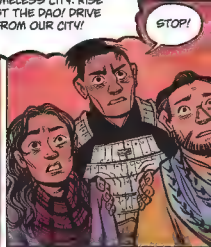
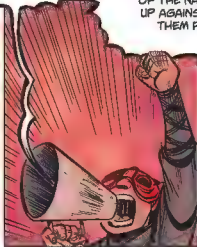




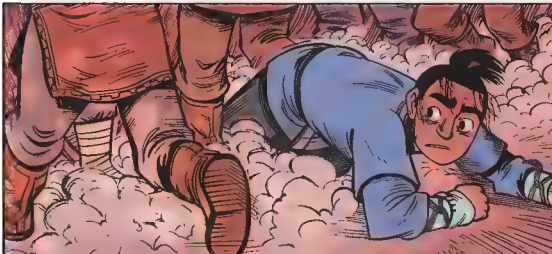
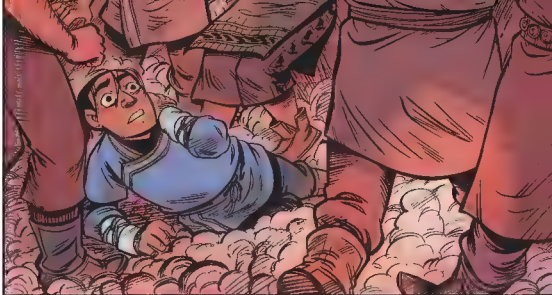


THE DAO ARE  
MURDERERS AND THIEVES! THEY  
STEAL THE WEALTH OF THE CITY  
FROM ITS RIGHTFUL OWNERS!

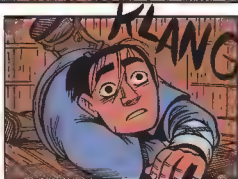
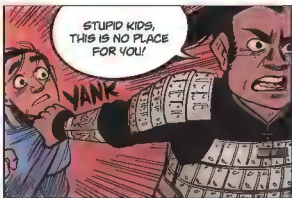
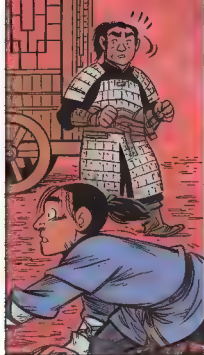
LISTEN TO ME, NAMED  
OF THE NAMELESS CITY: RISE  
UP AGAINST THE DAO! DRIVE  
THEM FROM OUR CITY!



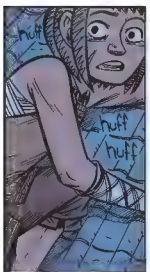
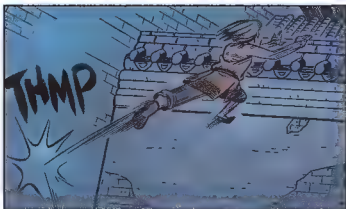




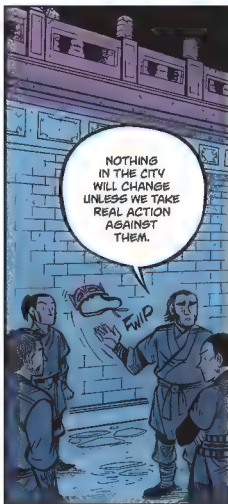















HE'S RIGHT.  
YOUR TACTICS ARE  
PATHETIC. YOU'LL  
NEVER DRIVE THE DAO  
OUT OF THE CITY  
WITH WORDS.



AND  
WHO ARE  
YOU?



A PATRIOT.



SOMEONE  
WHO WOULD  
SEE THE DAO  
RETURN TO OUR  
HOMELANDS,  
WHERE WE  
BELONG.



WE GROW  
SOFT IN  
THE CITY.

CIVILIZATION  
WEAKENS US.



HERE IS  
MY PLAN.

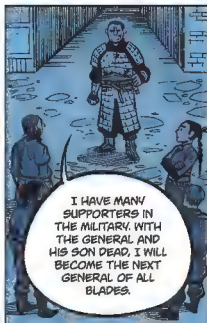


IN TWO DAYS' TIME YOU WILL ENTER THE DAO PALACE DISGUISED AS SERVANTS. I WILL ARRANGE THIS FOR YOU.

YOU WILL BE SERVING A GATHERING OF THE DAO MILITARY ELITE.



THE GENERAL OF ALL BLADES AND HIS SON WILL BE AT THIS ASSEMBLY. YOU WILL KILL BOTH OF THEM.



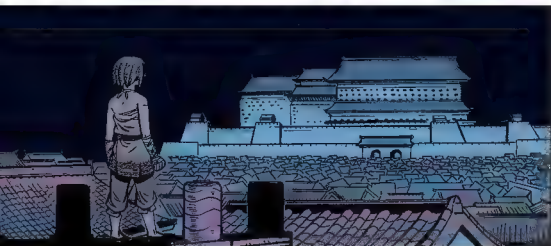
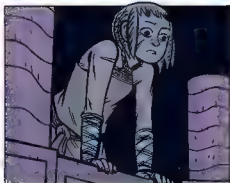
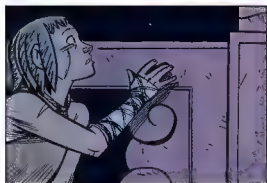
I HAVE MANY SUPPORTERS IN THE MILITARY. WITH THE GENERAL AND HIS SON DEAD, I WILL BECOME THE NEXT GENERAL OF ALL BLADES.



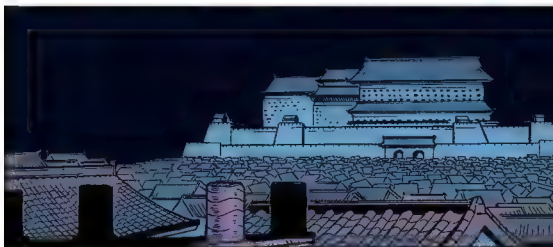
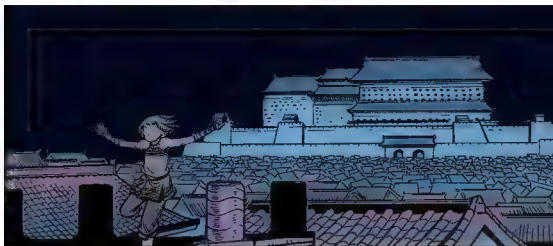
AND I WILL TAKE MY PEOPLE BACK TO OUR HOMELANDS.



THE CITY WILL BE YOURS TO DO WITH AS YOU WILL.

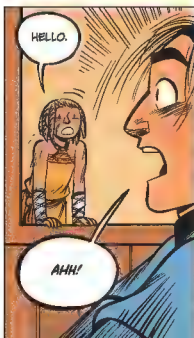
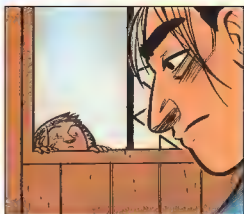
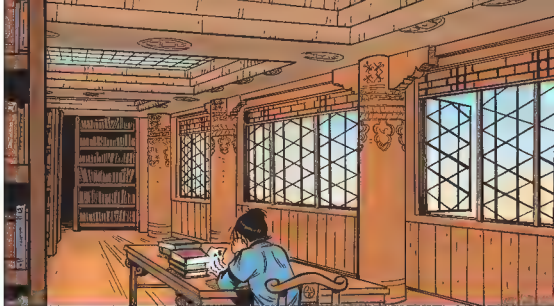


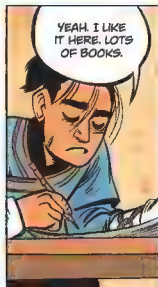
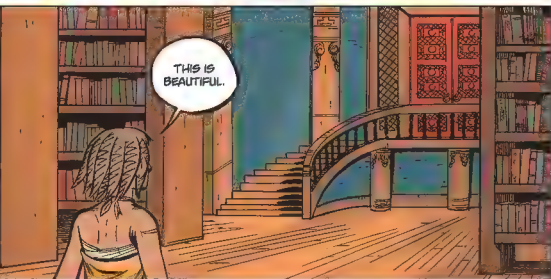


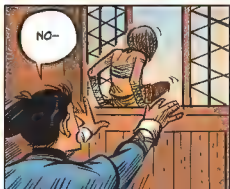
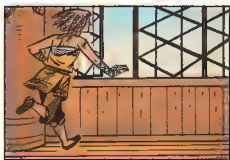
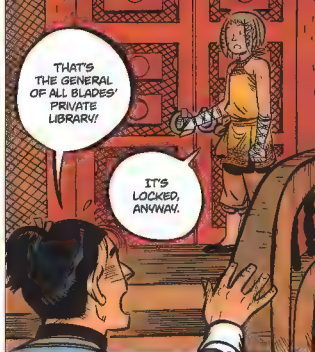


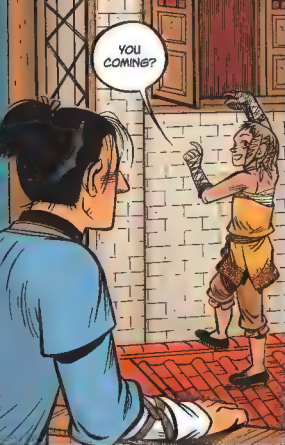
# DAY 31



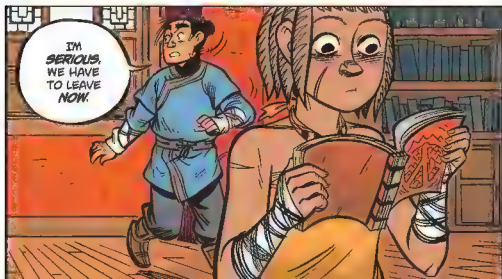
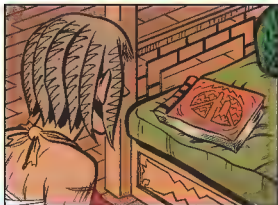


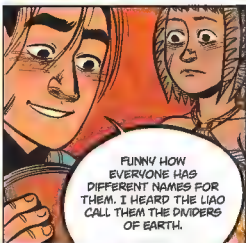
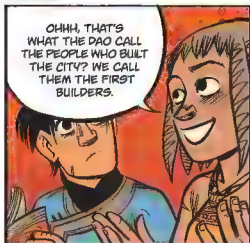
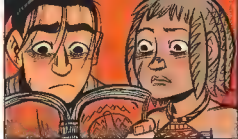
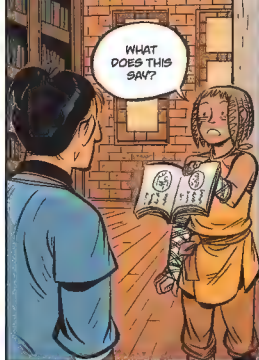


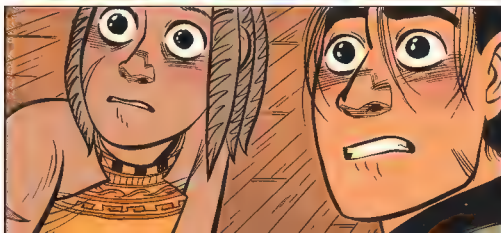
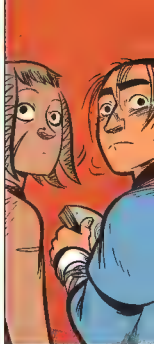
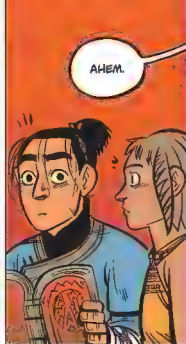
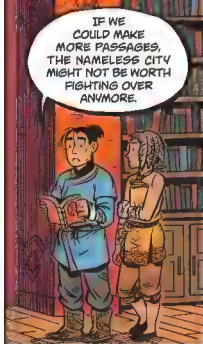


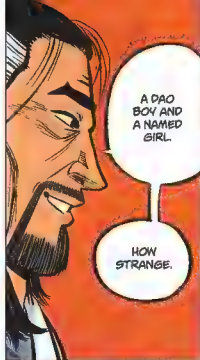






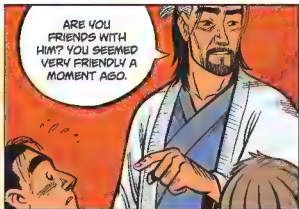




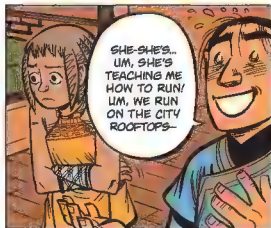


A DAO  
BOY AND  
A NAMED  
GIRL.

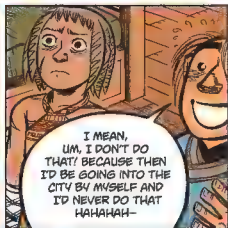
HOW  
STRANGE.



ARE YOU  
FRIENDS WITH  
HIM? YOU SEEMED  
VERY FRIENDLY A  
MOMENT AGO.



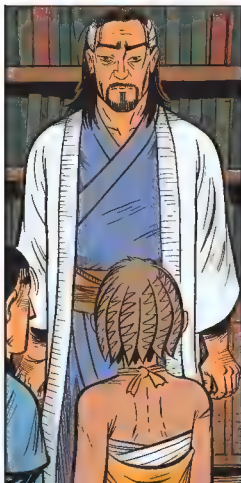
SHE-SHE'S...  
UM, SHE'S  
TEACHING ME  
HOW TO RUN!  
UM, WE RUN  
ON THE CITY  
ROOFTOPS-



I MEAN,  
UM, I DON'T DO  
THAT! BECAUSE THEN  
I'D BE GOING INTO THE  
CITY BY MYSELF AND  
I'D NEVER DO THAT  
HAHAHAH-



DO YOU HAVE  
A REASON FOR  
LOOKING AT ME WITH  
SUCH ANGER?



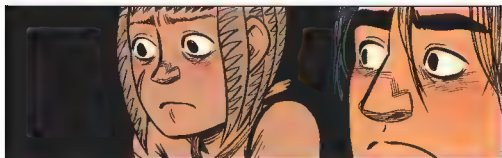
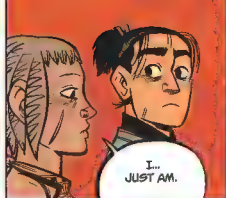
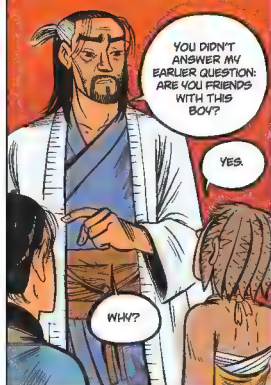


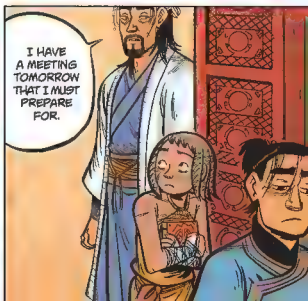
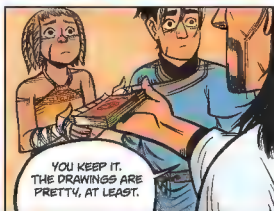
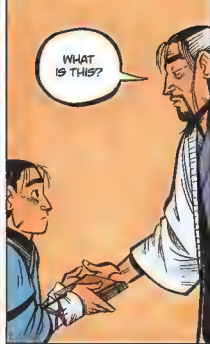
WERE THE DAO  
TO LEAVE THE CITY,  
THE YISUN OR THE LIAO  
WOULD IMMEDIATELY  
TRY TO CONQUER IT.

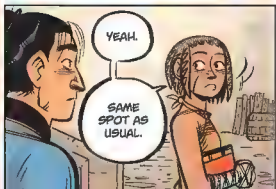
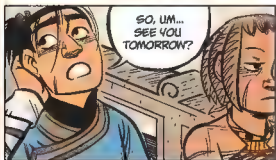
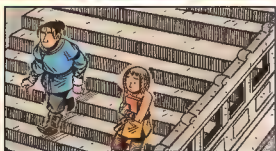
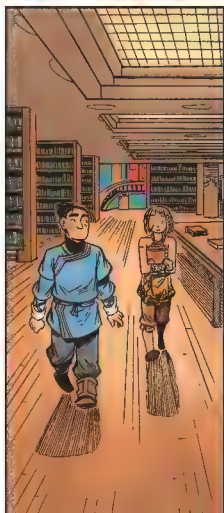
SOON THE CITY  
WOULD BE OCCUPIED  
AGAIN, STILL RULED,  
STILL AT WAR.

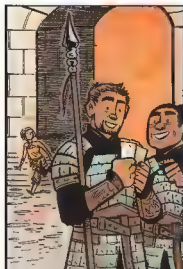
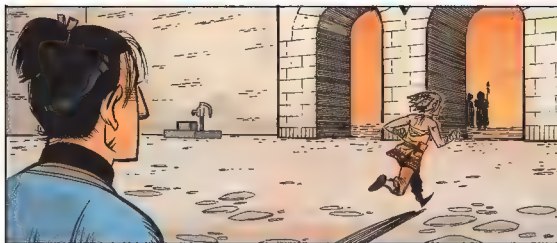
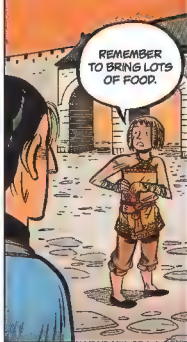


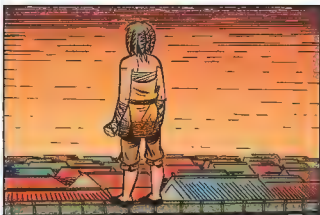
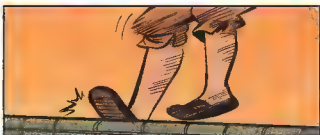




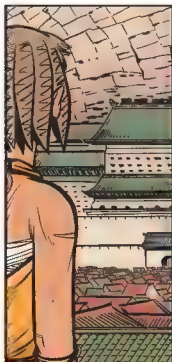
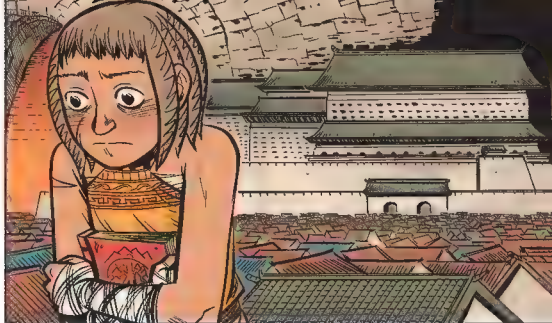


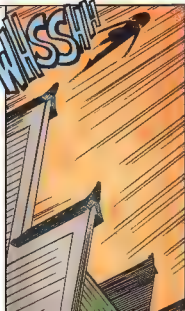
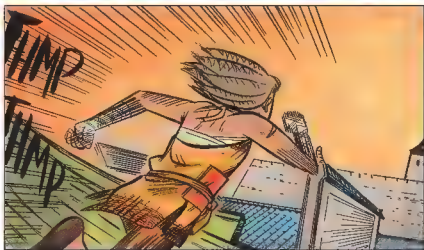
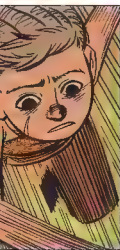
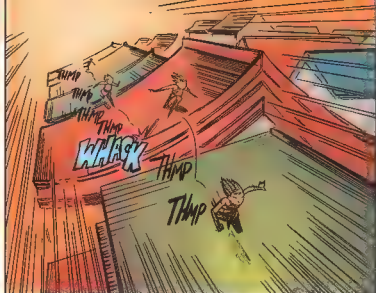


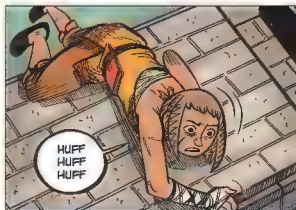
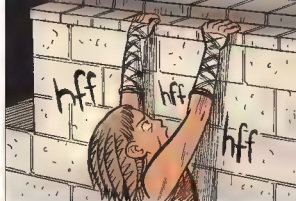
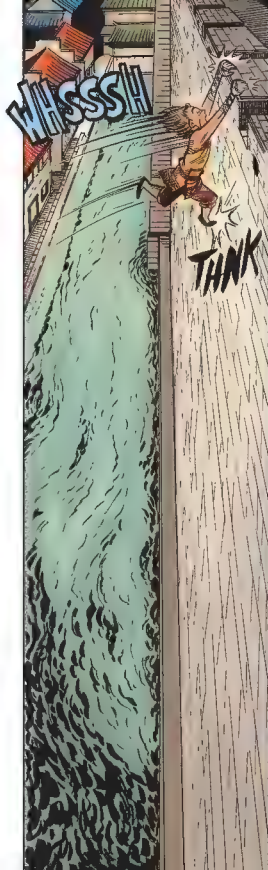








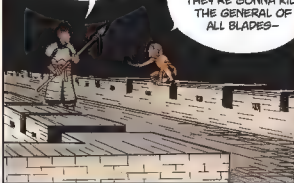




I NEED TO--  
MY FRIEND, HIS  
NAME IS KAIDU--



HOW DID YOU  
GET UP HERE?  
CITY PEOPLE ARE  
NOT ALLOWED ON  
PALACE WALLS.



I NEED TO  
SEE MY FRIEND--  
THERE ARE PEOPLE,  
THEY'RE GONNA KILL  
THE GENERAL OF  
ALL BLADES--

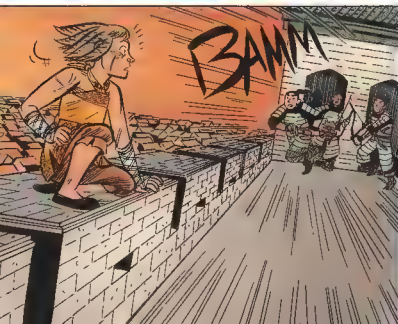
YOU'RE  
THREATENING  
THE GENERAL--



NO! I'M  
TRYING TO  
HELP! I--

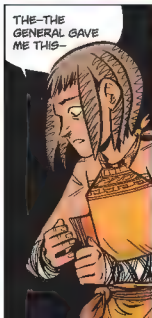
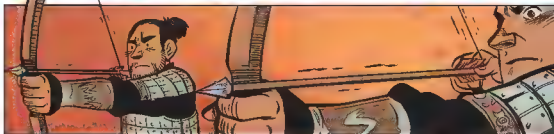
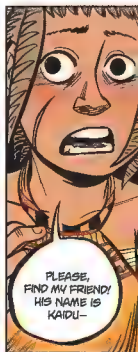
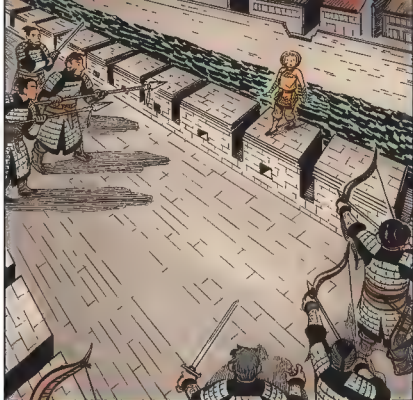


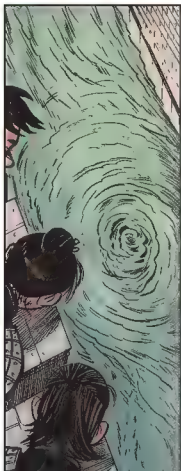
RAISE  
THE ALARM!



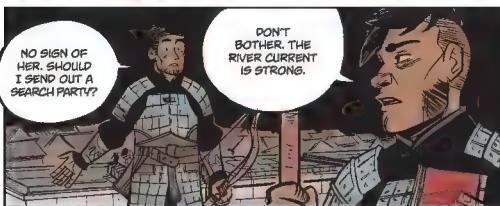
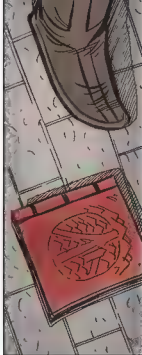
WAIT,  
YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND--



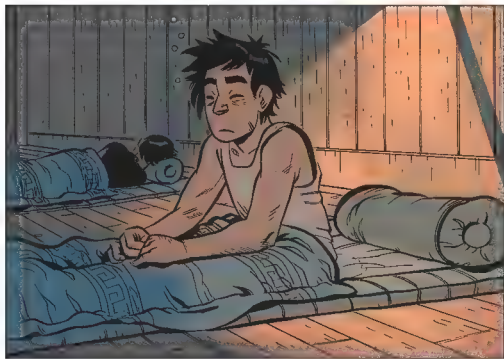








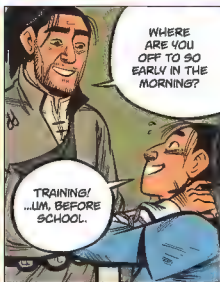
# DAY 32





HELLO,  
KAIDU.

DAD!  
UM, HI!



WHERE  
ARE YOU  
OFF TO SO  
EARLY IN THE  
MORNING?

TRAINING!  
...UM, BEFORE  
SCHOOL.



I SEE.



HEH.



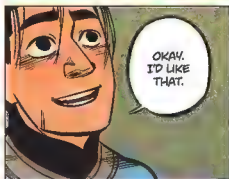


THERE'S AN ASSEMBLY THIS MORNING. I TOLD YOU ABOUT IT EARLIER. DO YOU REMEMBER?

YES. THE GENERALS OF THE DAO EMPIRE WILL BE THERE.



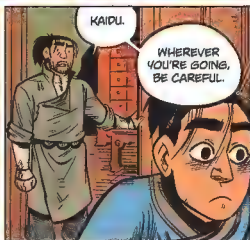
I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE ASSEMBLY. I THINK YOU'LL LEARN SOME THINGS ABOUT THE DAO AND OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD.



OKAY. I'D LIKE THAT.

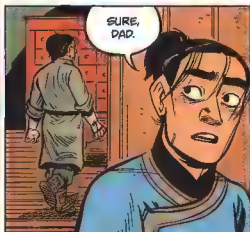


GREAT. I'LL SEE YOU IN A FEW HOURS.

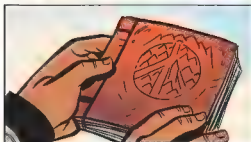
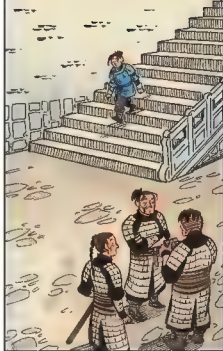


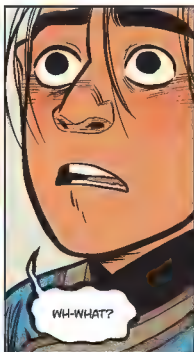
KAI DU.

WHEREVER YOU'RE GOING, BE CAREFUL.



SURE, DAD.

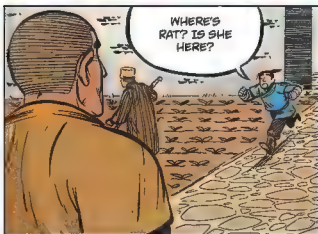








JOAH!



WHERE'S  
RAT? IS SHE  
HERE?



I HAVEN'T  
SEEN HER SINCE  
YESTERDAY, KAIDU.

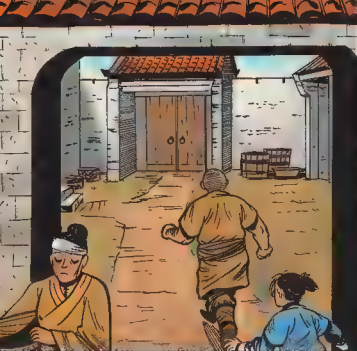


A GIRL FELL  
INTO THE RIVER BY  
THE DAO PALACE LAST  
NIGHT. I THINK IT  
WAS RAT.

I DON'T  
KNOW WHO  
ELSE TO ASK  
FOR HELP!

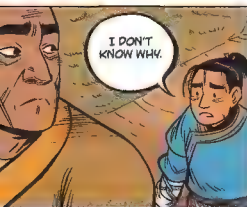


COME  
WITH ME.

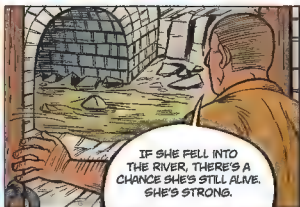


WHAT  
WAS RAT  
DOING  
AT THE  
PALACE?

SHE  
CAME TO  
SEE ME IN THE  
AFTERNOON,  
BUT SHE LEFT.  
SHE MUST  
HAVE COME  
BACK.



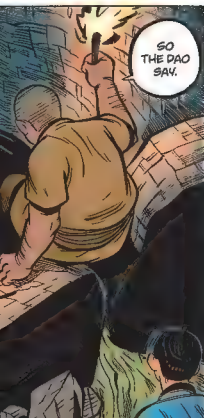
I DON'T  
KNOW WHY.

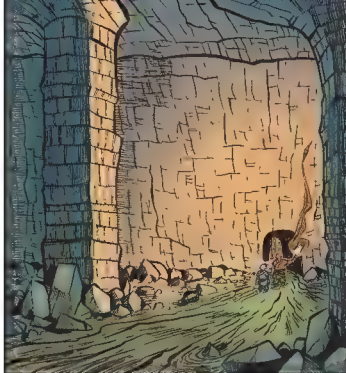


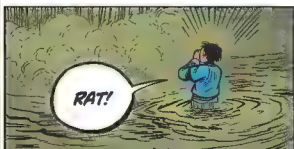
IF SHE FELL INTO  
THE RIVER, THERE'S A  
CHANCE SHE'S STILL ALIVE.  
SHE'S STRONG.



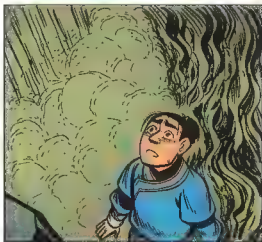
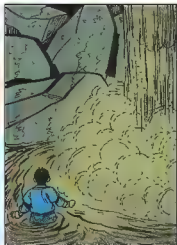
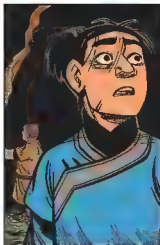
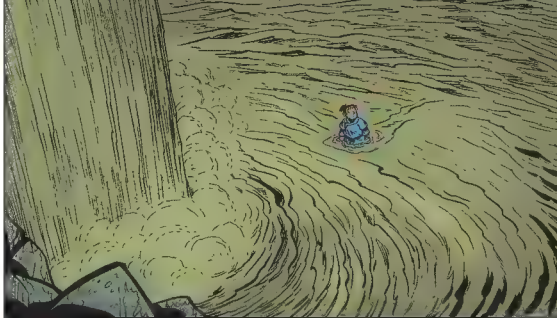


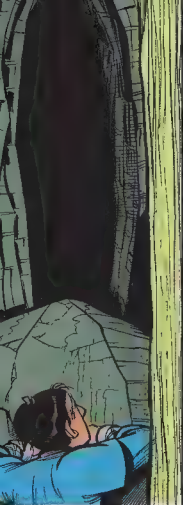




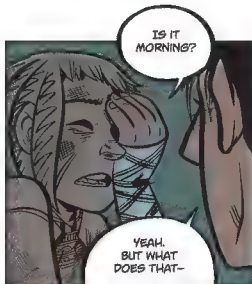






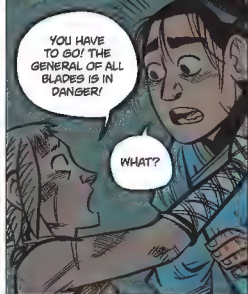






IS IT  
MORNING?

YEAH.  
BUT WHAT  
DOES THAT—



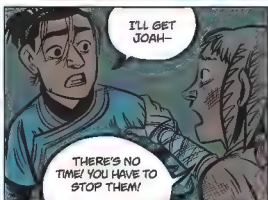
YOU HAVE  
TO GO! THE  
GENERAL OF ALL  
BLADES IS IN  
DANGER!

WHAT?



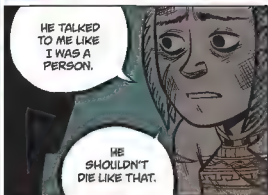
THERE ARE  
ASSASSINS IN THE  
PALACE. THEY'RE  
DRESSED AS  
SERVANTS.

THEY'RE  
GOING TO KILL  
HIM DURING AN  
ASSEMBLY OF  
DAO MILITARY.



I'LL GET  
JOAH—

THERE'S NO  
TIME! YOU HAVE TO  
STOP THEM!

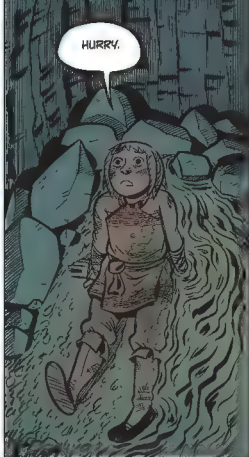
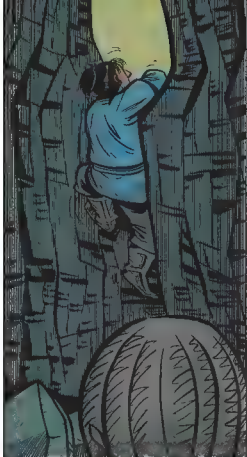


HE TALKED  
TO ME LIKE  
I WAS A  
PERSON.

HE  
SHOULDN'T  
DIE LIKE THAT.



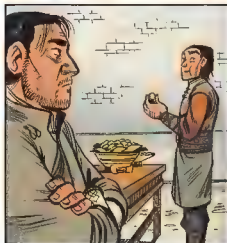
I'LL COME  
BACK FOR  
YOU.





THESE ASSEMBLIES  
HAVE BECOME NOTHING  
MORE THAN AN EXCUSE  
TO EAT WELL.

NOT THAT I'M  
COMPLAINING.



YOU  
LOOK WORRIED,  
ANDREN.

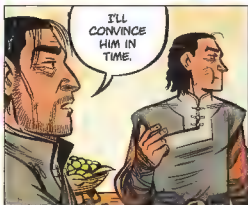
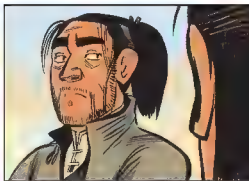
I'M JUST  
WONDERING  
WHERE MY  
SON IS.

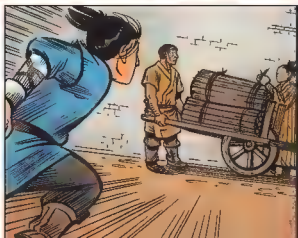
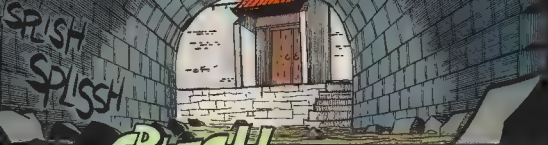


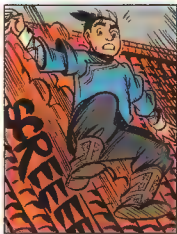
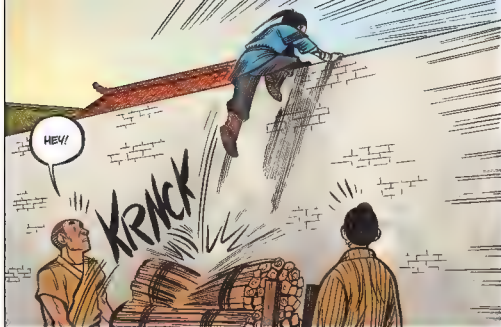
YOU'RE ACTUALLY  
GOING TO PRESENT THIS  
ABSDUR PLAN OF A COUNCIL  
TO OVERSEE THE CITY?  
AFTER MY FATHER  
REFUSED TO  
SUPPORT IT?

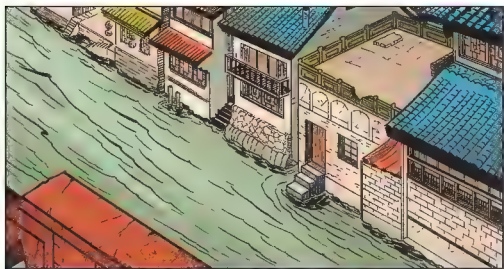
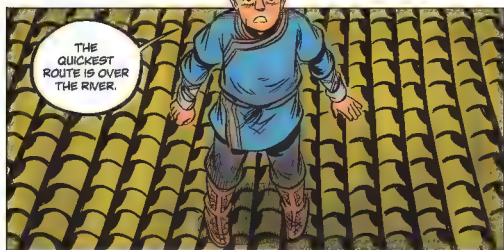
MY PLAN HAS  
OTHER SUPPORTERS  
WITHIN THE MILITARY,  
ERZI. OTHERS AGREE  
WE CANNOT HOLD THE  
CITY FOREVER.

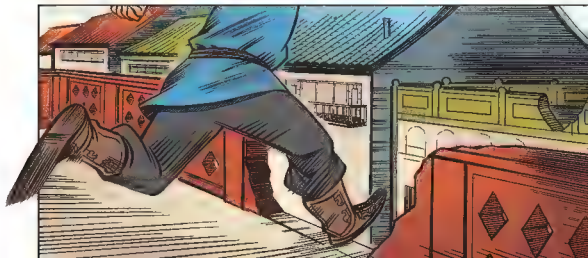
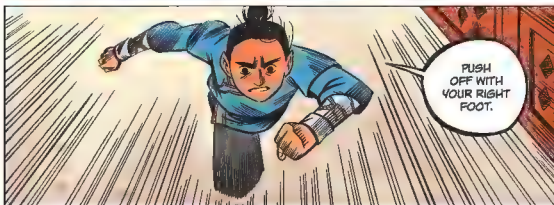
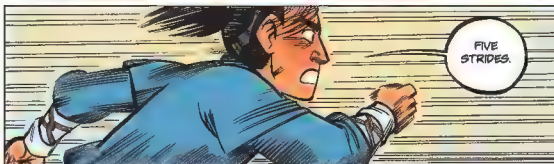
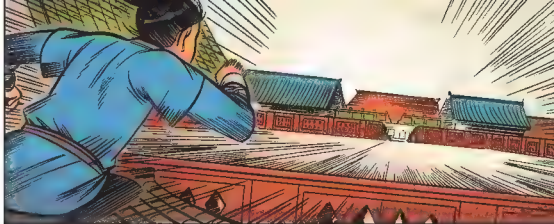


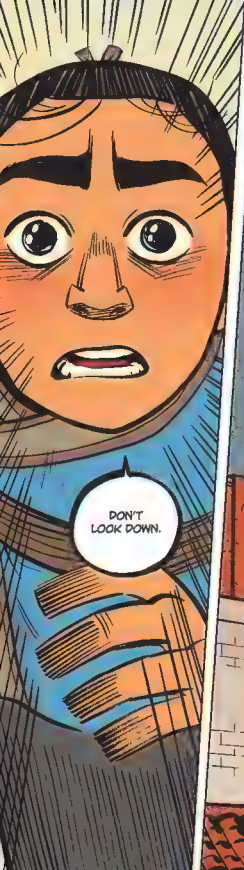




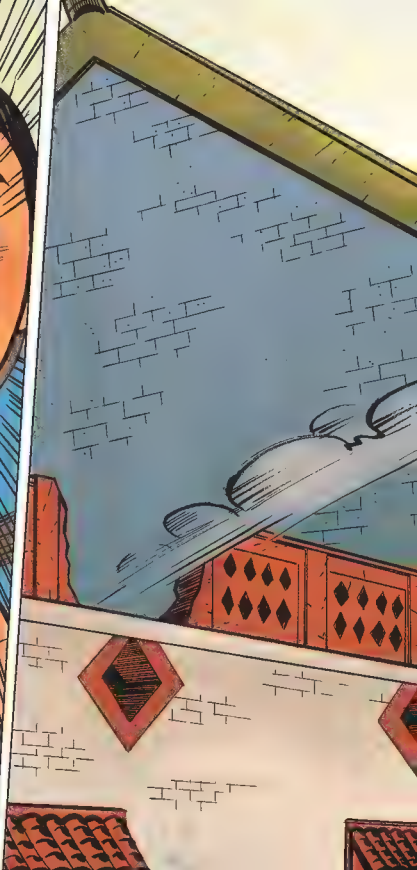






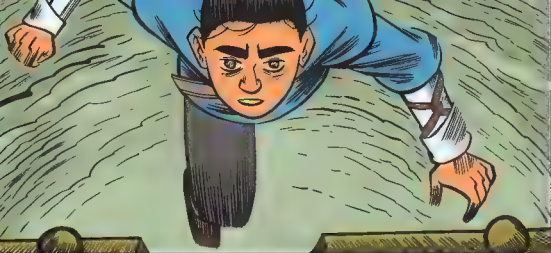


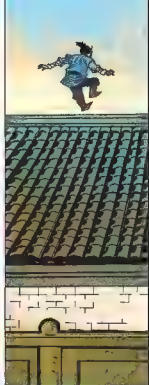
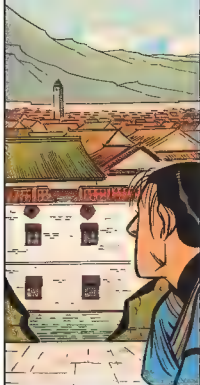
DON'T  
LOOK DOWN.

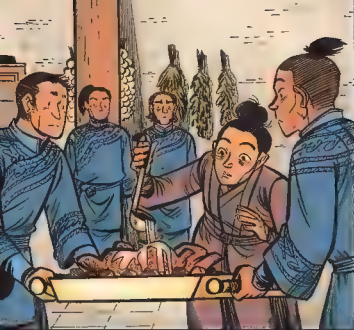


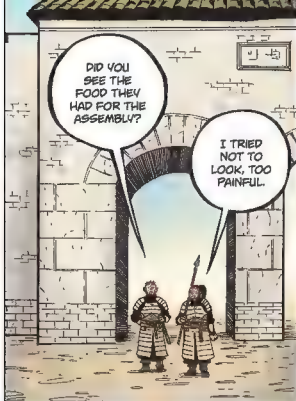















THERE  
HASN'T BEEN AN  
ASSASSINATION  
ATTEMPT IN OVER  
TEN YEARS.

YOU'RE JUST  
SAVING THAT SO  
YOU WON'T GET INTO  
TROUBLE. YOU WENT  
INTO THE CITY ALONE  
AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

IT'S  
TRUE!  
LET ME  
THROUGH!



I DON'T  
THINK—HEY!

GRAB

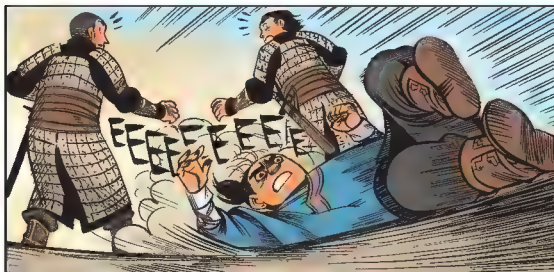
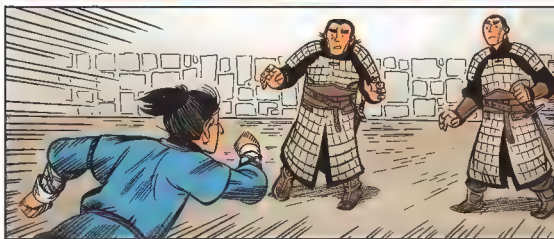


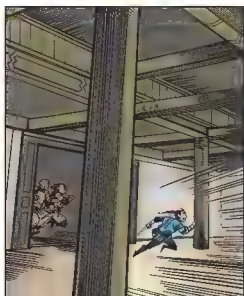
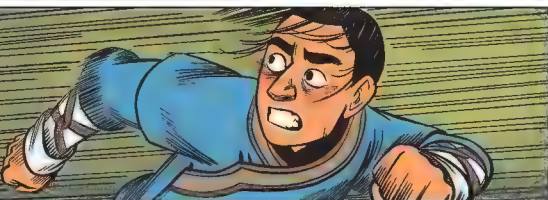
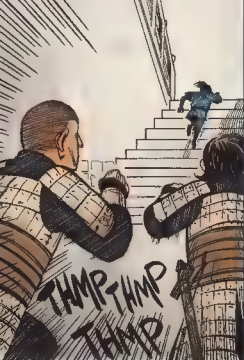
EVERY DAY IN  
THE CITY TRULY IS  
AN ADVENTURE.

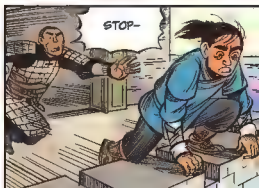
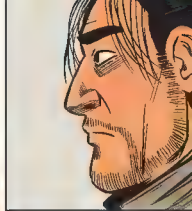
HOLD  
STILL,  
BRAT—

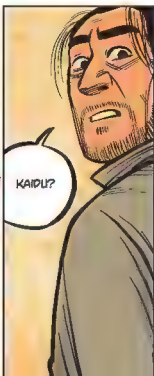
LET  
GO!!

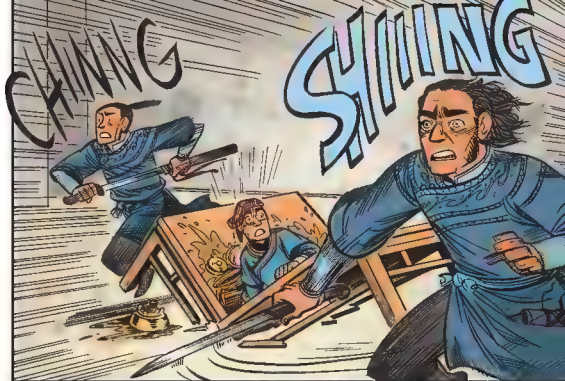




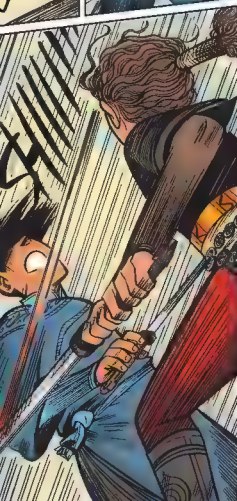




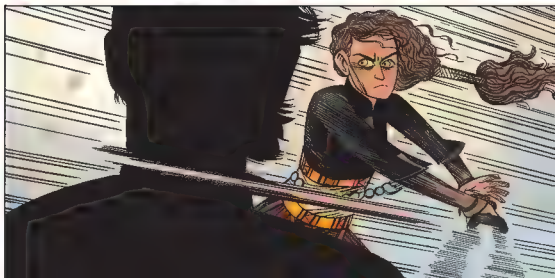
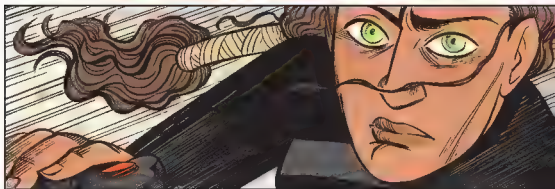
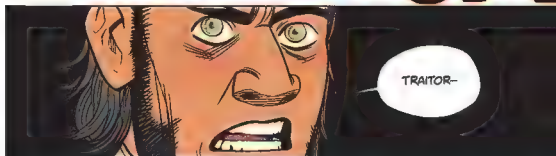


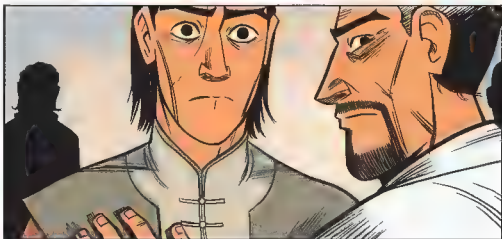
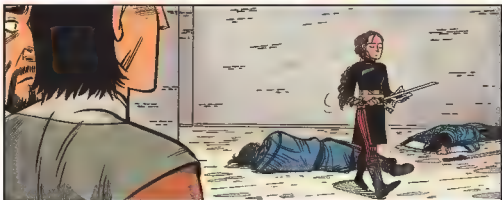
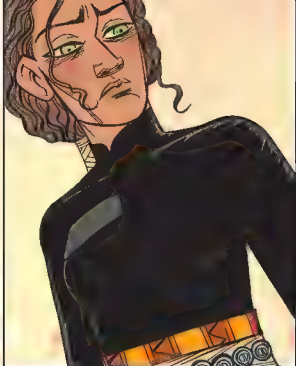


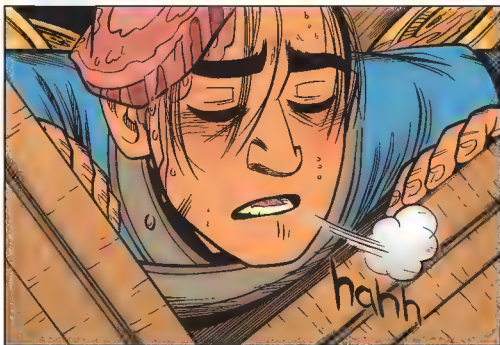


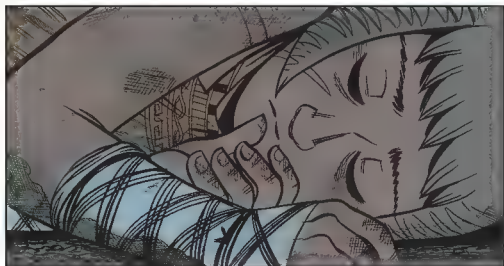
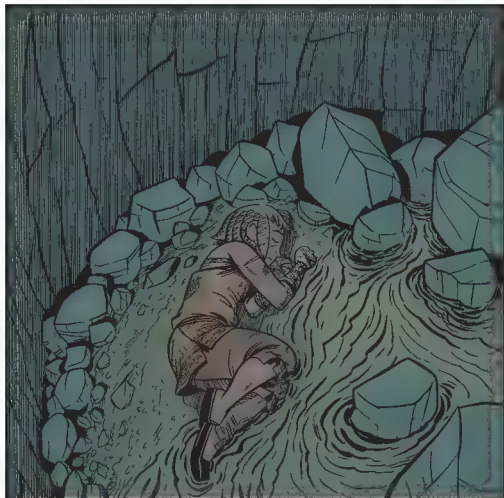


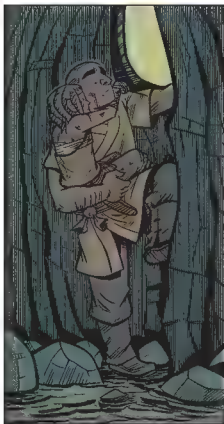
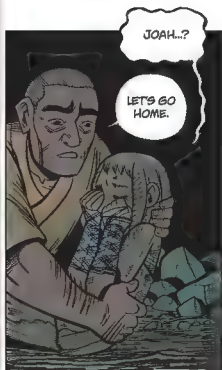


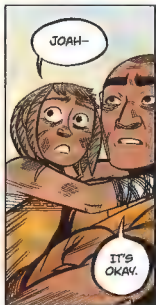
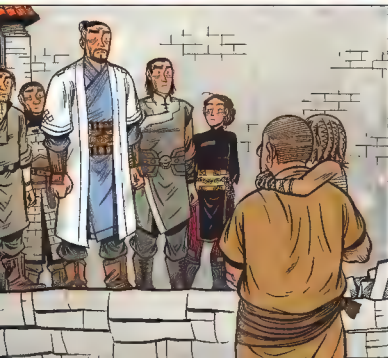




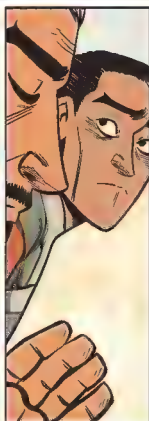


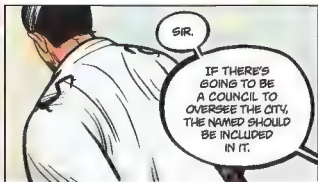
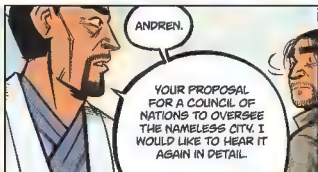


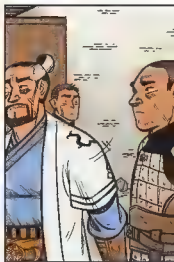
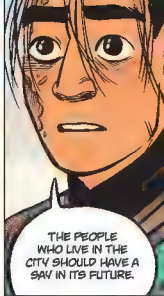


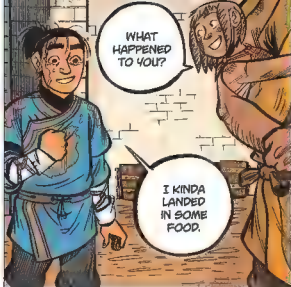












WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO YOU?

I KINDA  
LANDED  
IN SOME  
FOOD.

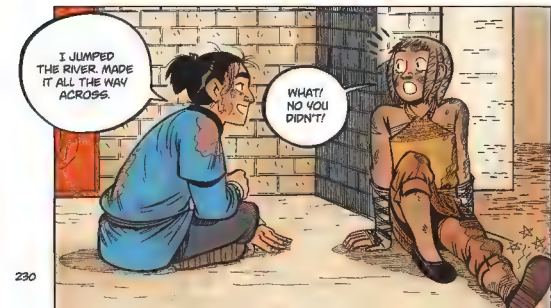


I'LL GET  
SOMEONE  
TO LOOK  
AT YOUR  
LEG, RAT.  
STAY  
HERE.



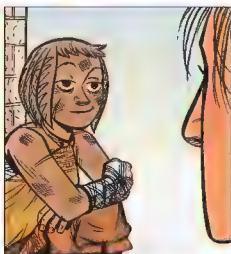
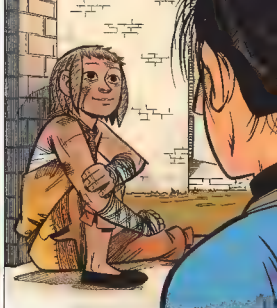
PLEASE, LET ONE  
OF OUR DOCTORS TAKE  
CARE OF HER. IT'S THE  
LEAST WE CAN DO.

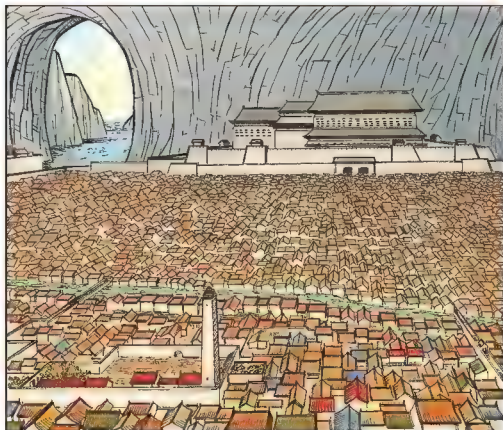
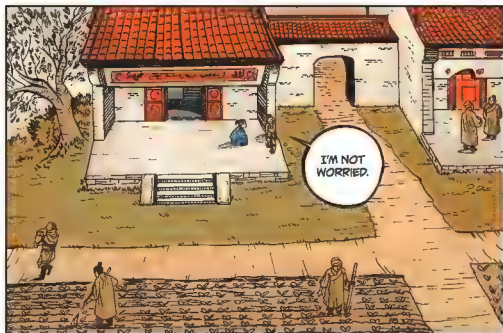
VERY WELL.  
THANK YOU.



I JUMPED  
THE RIVER. MADE  
IT ALL THE WAY  
ACROSS.

WHAT!  
NO YOU  
DIDN'T!







*TO BE CONTINUED IN*

# *THE* **STONE HEART**

BOOK 2 OF THE NAMELESS CITY SERIES

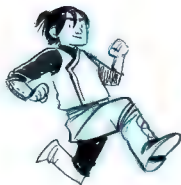
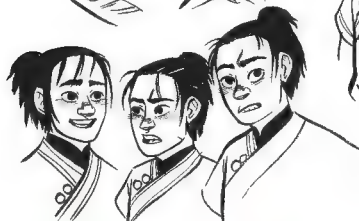


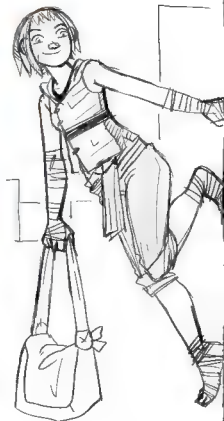
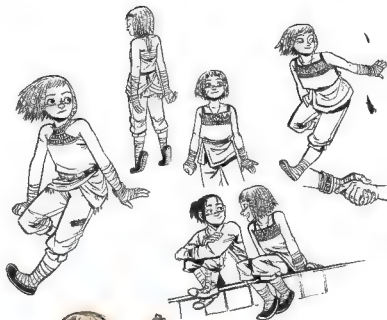
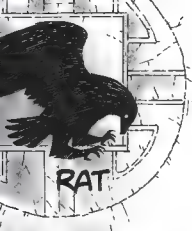
# CONCEPT ART

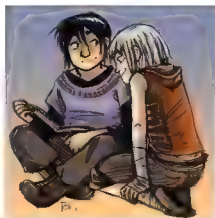
I've been working on *The Nameless City* for a long time, and the characters have changed a lot. I hope you enjoy seeing their evolution.

-FAITH ERIN HICKS

















Canada Council  
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du Canada

Faith Erin Hicks acknowledges the support of the Canada Council for the Arts, which last year invested \$153 million to bring the arts to Canadians throughout the country.

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